

Summer 7-1-2008

COM Outlook Summer 2008

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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NSUWorks Citation

College of Osteopathic Medicine, "COM Outlook Summer 2008" (2008). *COM Outlook*. Book 25.
http://nsuworks.nova.edu/hpd_com_outlook/25

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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

COM Outlook

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Summer 2008

Volume 9, Number 3

**NSU Begins Push Toward
Research Preeminence**



Remembering
Dr. Morton
Morris

Dean's Message



Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.

When Dr. Morton Morris passed away on May 2, 2008, NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine and the osteopathic profession as a whole lost a true friend and cherished advocate.

I think of myself as possessing a Type A personality, but I considered Dr. Morris to be a Type AA personality, if such a thing exists. He was extremely intense and had strong feelings about almost anything related to

the college, the profession—and everything else. Over the past decade, we attended many meetings together, and it became very apparent to me early on that he absolutely loved the profession and the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Because of his vast knowledge and the unrivaled experience he possessed on a range of topics, Dr. Morris was never afraid to say exactly what was on his mind. But this was an admirable trait that resulted in his being responsible for many of the advancements and enhancements that occurred here at the college as well as within the osteopathic profession throughout his distinguished career. In his role as chairman of the Council of Continuing Medical Education for the American Osteopathic Association, he increased both the credibility and quality of our CME programs significantly.

His knowledge of people in the profession was immense, which meant I could always ask for—and receive—sound advice or opinions. In addition, his dedication to the students was absolute for he was a student advocate in every sense of the word. Because his knowledge and understanding of the profession was so vast, these qualities allowed him to make decisions on behalf of the college and profession that were an asset to both because he knew the political ramifications that could result from bad judgment. If there were choices to be made, he always seemed to make the correct ones.

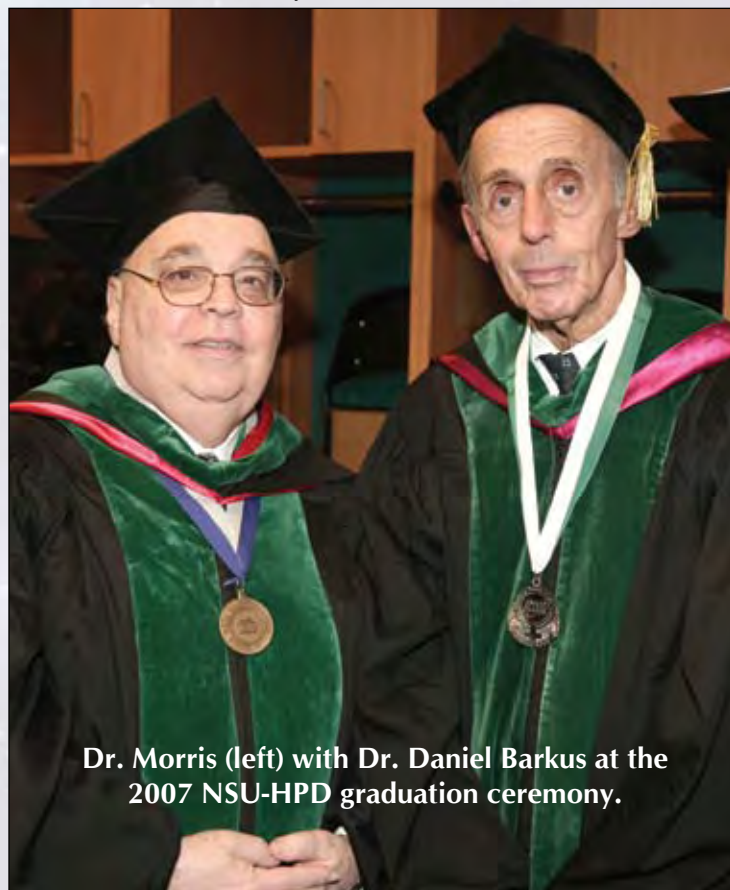
Professionally, I respected Dr. Morris tremendously. But it's on a personal level where I really developed so many fond memories of him. When I first became dean here at NSU-COM in 1998, Dr. Morris noticed that the wood conference table and desk in my office were unprotected, so, as a gift to me, he personally ordered the custom-made glass coverings that still shield these items to this day. For years, Dr. Morris kept an M&M peanut candy dispenser on his desk, so whenever he wanted to meet with me, he'd say with a laugh in his voice, "If you come meet with me, I'll give you some candy."

Of course, it won't be a surprise to learn that food played a major role in our relationship. Over the years, Dr. Morris and I, along with our wives, Marie and Dianna, had the pleasure of going to events and enjoying festive dinners together. However, because he and I shared a great passion for good food, there would always be a friendly competition between us as to who would suggest the restaurant. He also proved to be a mischievous soul who relished a good laugh at my expense.

Dr. Morris was a huge fan of onions, which I happen to be quite allergic to. Naturally, whenever he had the opportunity, he would order extra onions on purpose. As a result, there were many occasions when I would have to move my seat away for him in the restaurant because the smell would be so strong it would immediately make my mouth burn. But he would look at me with that devilish glint in his eye and enjoy a hearty laugh.

More than anything, Dr. Morris was a lovable character who enriched all our lives. I will miss bumping into him at various airports when we traveled to countless meetings across the country—many times with each of us journeying to different destinations.

However, the things I'll miss most about Dr. Morris are his humor and infectious laugh. Fortunately, when I close my eyes, I can easily conjure up the image of him laughing, which brings an immediate smile to my face.



Dr. Morris (left) with Dr. Daniel Barkus at the 2007 NSU-HPD graduation ceremony.



Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.

The best way I can sum up HPD Research Day, which was held April 25 at the Signature Grand in Davie, is to say it was a truly magical experience. It gave me great pride to see that the Health Professions Division, through the leadership of Dr. Patrick Hardigan, was able to coordinate this interdisciplinary presentation that had tremendous energy, was attended by over 1,700 people, and featured a multidisciplinary mix of

students and faculty members.

The reason I say it was magical is because we successfully challenged the student participants to seek answers directly to their questions of knowledge or fact that were being presented. There also was a great deal of interchange between the presenters and the participants. One of the things I had hoped for, which did occur, was the strengthening of our collaborative research approach, which was evidenced by the multiple numbers of presentations made by the faculty and student researchers, who actually lead most of the presentations.

It was wonderful to witness the student researchers—who worked closely with their faculty mentors—making the presentations because that's really the essence of what HPD Research Day is all about. It's not only about presenting knowledge; it's about trying to establish a sense of belonging within the search for additional knowledge through research. The event provided student participants with the will as well as the opportunity to seek out knowledge well beyond the classroom, the Internet, or their written texts. For a pioneering effort, it was extremely successful.

Logistically, Research Day was a huge undertaking that required the cooperation of many dedicated individuals to make the event come together. I'm especially grateful to all the HPD deans who were able to allow their students to participate. We had over 50 poster presentations on display at Research Day—a process that required much more than simply exhibiting a number of materials. To make the event as authentic as possible, the posters were juried and had to meet certain tests of situational qualifications.

We are currently planning for our second Research Day, which will take place on February 12, 2010. The resultant response from the first Research Day has already indicated we'll probably have anywhere from 2,200 to 2,500 participants next time.

While Research Day was the high point of the past several months, the Health Professions Division also suffered a significant loss on May 2 when Dr. Morton Morris, who served as executive dean for professional affairs, passed away. I had the distinct honor of knowing Dr. Morris as a medical professional and attorney

at law for over 30 years. Back in the 1970s, Dr. Morris and I were in contemporary leadership when he was president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association and I was an officer of the Florida Pharmacy Association before I began my legislative involvement. Once I was elected as a member of the Florida House of Representatives, I communicated with him many times on matters affecting the profession and the citizenry.

We really got to know each other as colleagues during my pioneering days at Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in North Miami Beach, where Dr. Morris served as one of the founding members of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine. We had a great deal of interchange, and as I got to know him as an administrator and academic colleague, it became apparent that he was an exceptional, capable human being who was highly regarded by his peers. In fact, physicians from throughout Florida would frequently call on him for a range of medical and legal advice. He was an outstanding physician and administrative lawyer who was certainly an admired colleague here in the administration of NSU-HPD.

When I think of his passing and what it means, I see it from my position here as chancellor. I don't know why this thought came to me, but when I was reflecting about Dr. Morris, I suddenly thought of a beautiful fine china pitcher that falls on the floor and breaks. When that happens, you say, "Gee, look at all those pieces." Although I never took his innumerable contributions for granted, I suddenly realized just how many areas he was involved in here at the university such as technology, background checks, research, graduate medical education, and continuing medical education as well as working with student advocacy groups and serving as our ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) officer. To put it simply, he is missed.





Nova Southeastern University

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COM Outlook is produced by
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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328
<http://medicine.nova.edu>

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COM Outlook is produced quarterly in
January, April, July, and October.

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7 Alvarez, Cawley Garner Golden Stuey Statuettes

Third-year student Roger Alvarez and Lynne Cawley, director of alumni affairs, earned golden glory for the College of Osteopathic Medicine when they emerged as winners at the Ninth Annual NSU Student Life Achievement (Stuey) Awards.

18 Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health Saves Lives

During the Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health, 130 students and 22 faculty members from various NSU Health Professions Division colleges had the opportunity to give back to the community and make a positive difference in the lives of indigent citizens in Belle Glade and Clewiston.

20 HPD Research Day Serves as Essential Educational Enhancement

On April 25, after several years of careful planning, the Health Professions Division reached a significant milestone when it held its inaugural HPD Research Day, which attracted an estimated 1,700 attendees to the Signature Grand in Davie and featured over 100 poster and platform presentations.

22 NSU Revs Up its Research Emphasis

The categorical success of HPD Research Day served to underscore the fact that Nova Southeastern University is well on its way to establishing itself as an institution that is as renowned for its research endeavors as it is for its diverse educational programs.

26 Osteopathic Professions Loses a Legend: Dr. Morton Morris

On May 2, 2008, NSU and the osteopathic profession lost a beloved figure when Dr. Morton Morris, who served as executive dean for professional affairs of the Health Professions Division, passed away unexpectedly following kidney surgery.

33 Graduation 2008: Senior Week Activities Celebrate Success

A sense of celebration was in evidence during Senior Week, which provided a multitude of opportunities for the class of 2008 to get reacquainted while participating in a range of fun-filled activities.

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On May 20, Florida Governor Charlie Crist visited NSU's Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies to sign into law a state mandate for increased health insurance benefits to help autistic children. The

legislation calls for the state to negotiate with insurance companies for increased coverage for therapy and behavioral analysis and mandates autism benefits of up to \$36,000 a year (\$200,000 over a lifetime) from any insurance carrier that does not comply with the compact. The ceremonial bill signing attracted a diverse audience that included (from left) Dan Marino, the former Miami Dolphins' quarterback who has an autistic son, Dr. Fred Lippman, and Governor Charlie Crist.



Scott Colton, director of medical communications, received a Best Article or Feature Story Award in the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Communications Awards Competition. Colton, who was honored for his *COM Outlook* article entitled "Florida Passes Landmark Physician Workforce Legislation," received his award at a luncheon ceremony held April 10 at

the AACOM Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri.

COMmunications

■ **OMS-IV Bob Cambridge** had his research paper entitled "Accuracy of Death Certificates in a Suburban Community" accepted for presentation at the National Association of Medical Examiners 2008 Annual Meeting, which will take place September 5-10 in Louisville, Kentucky. The paper was coauthored by Stephen Cina, M.D., who serves as deputy chief medical examiner for Broward County and clinical professor of pathology at NSU-COM.

■ **Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc.**, who served as founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (the precursor to SECOM) and executive vice chancellor and provost of the Health Professions Division, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians—his second such award from the organization.

■ **Marie Schaefer**, administrative assistant in the Office of Education, Planning, and Research, was named Ms. Haiti at the Miss Haiti Pageant, which was held April 5 at the Lake Worth Community Center in Lake Worth, Florida.

Guest Speakers Enlighten Rural Medicine Club Members

By Michelle Covili, Rural Medicine Club president, and Jessica Cuello, project coordinator

In April, The Rural Medicine Club was honored to have two distinguished guest speakers—John Geake, D.O., who is a 1993 NSU-COM alumnus, and Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, NSU-COM dean, discuss their experiences of working in rural communities with our club members.

Dr. Geake, who was awarded a National Health Service Corps scholarship while he was a medical student, discovered the rural Florida communities of Moore Haven, Clewiston, and Belle Glade while he was honoring his service commitment to these underserved communities. He loved the experience so much that he decided to practice family medicine in these areas permanently. Dr. Geake shared stories of the reality of practicing medicine in such small towns and how much he has enjoyed serving as a role model and leader in the community. His talk also provided NSU-COM students who are interested in rural medicine a chance to have their questions answered regarding their future careers in rural medicine.

Dr. Silvagni also shared candid stories of his experiences practicing medicine in rural South Dakota and discussed the impact it had on his family. Members of the Rural Medicine Club, along with their friends and family, were given the opportunity to ask questions about practicing medicine in a rural setting and learn the unique intricacies and differences of rural medicine as compared with urban practice. Hopefully, talks like these provide medical students and their families with the information they need to decide what type of rural surroundings they are best suited for, with the long-term goal of keeping doctors in these communities.



Dr. Geake and his wife Ellen (bottom row) pose with Jessica Cuello (project coordinator), Michelle Tom (incoming president), Joseph Huerta (incoming vice president), and Michelle Covili (current president).



On April 21-25, 19 D.O. and M.D. students from Germany visited the NSU-COM campus. The group was led by Matthias Beck, M.D., D.O. (back row, fifth from right) and his wife Andrea Beck, PT

(front row, second from right) who are the heads of the AVT College of Osteopathic Medicine in Nagold, Germany. These students will graduate in April 2009 and were here to observe osteopathic education in the United States as part of their training experience. Michael Patterson, Ph.D., assistant chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, hosted the group during its visit.



The college's six 2007-2008 predoctoral OPP fellows recently concluded their one-year fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice. Pictured (front row from left)

are Joy Kang, Cesar Aguiluz, and Cori Chase. Pictured (back row from left) are Beau Gedrick, Jenisa Oberbeck, and Woodwin Weeks.

27th Annual Bal Fantastique Honors Dr. Barry Silverman



Dr. Silverman (center) receives his award from Dr. Lippman and Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.

The 27th Annual Bal Fantastique, which was held March 29, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale, is a gala dinner/dance that honors the vision of Dr. Morton Terry who, along with numerous other dedicated individuals, created a world-renowned health care

teaching facility called the Nova Southeastern University Health Professions Division. During the event, Barry Silverman, M.D., who serves as vice chair of NSU's Board of Trustees and a member of the HPD Board of Governors, was presented with the Morton Terry Founders' Award, which honors inspirational leadership in education and health care administration. Previous winners of this prestigious accolade are David Rush (2004), Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D. (2005), and Sylvia Ulrich, M.A. (2006).

Silvagni Society Wins COM Cup

By Nat Kittisarapong, OMS-II



This year, the annual COM Cup end-of-the-year academical society event was a well-attended, fun-filled carnival complete with prizes, food, music, and booths manned by societies and faculty members. Students and their families had a chance to zoom through a slip 'n slide and battle each other in games such as dance freeze, beanbag

tossing, sack races, water-balloon wars, and badminton. Faculty members such as Drs. Kenneth Johnson and Natasha Bray made generous cash donations to the event while others such as Dr. Grady Campbell, Dr. Stanley Simpson (pictured above), and Dr. Howard Hada donated their faces to the pie-throwing contest. It was a great end to a yearlong wellness competition among the societies to see which would become the 2007-2008 COM Cup champions. This year's winner was the Silvagni Society, which received an ice-cream social at Jaxson's Ice Cream Parlor & Restaurant in Dania Beach. The society's name will be put on the COM Cup trophy, and society members will receive championship T-Shirts.



Over the past few months, OMS-III Terry Moy-Brown, M.P.H., has been visiting a different Miami-Dade or Broward County nursing home or assisted living center to provide much-needed cheer. In May, she led a group of volunteers from a local church

to Active Senior Living Center in Tamarac. "We brought board games to play with the seniors because many of the residents do not have family in the area and rarely get visitors," she said. "The seniors had such a good time that as we were leaving they asked when we would be back."



OMS-III Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., was named Osteopathic Medical Student of the Year in April by the Florida Academy of Osteopathy (FAO) and presented with a plaque and monetary award for his dedication and service to the principles and practice of osteopathic medicine. He also

coauthored two research articles that were recently published. They are "Occupational Segregation as a Determinant of U.S. Worker Health" that appeared in the *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* and "Reported Skin Cancer Screening of U.S. Adult Workers" in the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

Alvarez, Cawley Garner Golden Statuettes at NSU Stuey Awards

OMS-III Roger Alvarez and Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs, earned golden glory for the College of Osteopathic Medicine when they emerged as winners at the Ninth Annual NSU Student Life Achievement (Stuey) Awards, which were held on April 15 at the Miniaci Performing Arts Center on campus. The Stueys serve as a celebration of NSU's best in leadership, scholarship, service, integrity, commitment, involvement, and responsibility.

Alvarez was honored as NSU Student of the Year, which marks the second consecutive year an NSU-COM student has received this significant honor. As a student leader, Alvarez's focus has consistently been on two major areas: working with students, local administration, and national leaders to enhance the training of osteopathic medical students and serving the community. He began his work as a student leader by serving as the OMS-I representative to NSU-COM's Academic Curriculum Committee, where he brought important academic issues from his colleagues to the committee, which then voted on significant rule changes that positively impacted the students. He was later elected as SGA vice president and then SGA president. In these positions, Roger has worked tirelessly both locally and nationally as a representative for the college's student body, helped organize various SGA functions, and worked closely with the SGA Senate and student organizations.

In addition to his work with the SGA, he organized and taught physiology review sessions to students having difficulty with the course. Through his work, he not only helped many first-year students but also raised more than \$1,000 for a not-for-profit foundation he established with his colleagues called the Sajjad Hasan Foundation, which is named for a beloved student who passed away last year from thymus cancer. The foundation assists osteopathic medical students who take a leave from their studies to fight a serious illness.

"I'm so happy to be at a university that values student involvement and participation as much as NSU," Alvarez explained. "Receiving the Student Life Achievement Award for Student of the Year was all the more rewarding considering the other students who were nominated and the remarkable work they all do, as well as the work of past winners whom I have had the pleasure to work with."

Cawley, who has worked at the university since March

1989, began her NSU career as an admissions counselor and then progressed to the position of recruiter for out-of-state admissions. She also worked in the HPD Office of Admissions before accepting her current position at the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"Having worked at NSU for 19 years, winning this award means more to me than anything else I've done in my career," she admitted. "However, being nominated by the students meant even more to me than winning the award. As director of alumni affairs, I obviously work more with alumni than students. But I have tried to bring the students and alumni together by inviting students to alumni events, starting a mentoring program with our alumni, and having alumni mixers on campus, just to name a few. It is every educator's dream to be recognized by her students, and being nominated by the students and winning the award certainly has made my dream come true. It is something I will cherish and remember for the rest of my life."



Golden Glow: Roger Alvarez and Lynne Cawley enjoy their Stuey success with Dr. Silvagni.

Research Efforts, Academic Excellence Recognized at Student Awards Ceremony

On April 3, a number of awards and scholarships were presented to both students and faculty members at the annual undergraduate student awards ceremony, which was held in the Health Professions Division's Steele Auditorium. Students were honored in areas such as research, academic excellence, and service. In addition, several faculty members were presented with Golden Apple Awards for their outstanding teaching abilities.

Bailey, Cuello Receive Dr. Matthew Terry Scholarships



Jessica Cuello, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, and Christopher Bailey.

OMS-I Christopher Bailey and OMS-II Jessica Cuello were selected as recipients of the 2008 Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment. The academic accolade, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash award, was established in 1999 to honor first-

and second-year

medical students who epitomize virtues such as scholastic excellence, service to the school, empathy, and congeniality. The Dr. Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment, which was the brainchild of the Department of Family Medicine, serves as a fitting tribute to students who embody the true spirit of an osteopathic practitioner.

Mickelson, Wong Earn Dr. Bradley Silverman Scholarship



Richard Wong (center) was honored to receive the Bradley Silverman Scholarship from Marilyn and Stanley Silverman.

OMS-I students Aaron Jon Mickelson and Richard Wong were the recipients of the Third Annual Dr. Bradley I. Silverman Memorial Scholarship, which was established in 2006 to honor outstanding NSU-COM students who participate in cancer-related community service

and showcase compassion, commitment, and other laudable traits exemplified by Dr. Silverman. In addition to earning well-deserved recognition, Wong and Mickelson each received \$1,500 cash awards. Dr. Silverman, who passed away in 1999, was a member of NSU-COM's charter graduating class in 1985. During his career, he became passionately involved in the breast cancer field and went on to become chief of surgery and then chief of staff elect at Aventura Hospital and Medical Center.

Trubey Takes Home Burnell Research Award



Pictured (from left) are Lawrence Jacobson, D.O., vice dean, Kristina Trubey, and Dr. K.V. Venkatachalam.

OMS-III Kristina Trubey, who also is a predoctoral research fellow, was named the winner of the Eighth Annual Dr. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Award, which is presented to NSU-COM students who conduct outstanding research in either clinical medicine or biomedical science.

Trubey, who earned a \$1,000 cash award as well as elective research credit on her transcript, was honored for her research project entitled "Enzyme Characterization of l-Methionine γ -Lyase from *Porphyromonas Gingivalis*." She conducted her research under the mentorship of K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry. The award was created in December 2000 when Dr. Burnell provided a \$50,000 endowment to the college for the purpose of recognizing student research. Following his death in 2005, Dr. Burnell's will included a proviso that upped the endowment to \$125,000.

Cashman Earns David Spector Memorial Award



Catherine Cashman receives congratulations from Raymond Ferrero III, J.D., assistant professor of family medicine.

OMS-II Catherine Cashman received the David Spector Memorial Award, which is presented annually to a first- or second-year osteopathic medical student who has participated in research pertaining to the prevention or treatment of substance abuse. The award, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash prize, was established in 2005 in honor of David Spector—an undergraduate psychology student in the NSU Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences who died from an oxycontin overdose in 2004.

Drs. Dribin, Packer Garner Golden Apple Awards



Dr. Dribin receives her Golden Apple Award from Candace White, class of 2011 president.

Lori Dribin, Ph.D., professor of anatomy in the College of Medical Sciences, received the Golden Apple Award from the class of 2011 for her outstanding instructional capabilities. Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, was the class of 2010 Golden Apple Award recipient but was unable to attend the ceremony.

Fit for Life Awards



Fit for Life winners and runners-up are Dilini Daswatta (OMS-I first runner-up), Vivian Lo (OMS-II first runner-up), Corey Chartan (OMS-II winner), Nicholas St. Hilaire (OMS-II second runner-up); Kyle Peterson (OMS-I winner), and Erin Speck (OMS-I second runner-up).

The Fit for Life Awards, which are based on AOA President Dr. Peter Ajluni's initiative to have osteopathic physicians practice what they preach and be as physically fit as possible, were presented to first- and second-year students who took the most steps based on the pedometer results they racked up over a three-week period.

Academical Society Awards

Ten hard-working individuals were honored for their contributions to their individual academical societies as well as their commitment to fellow society members, with each selectee receiving a \$500 cash award.



William Anderson Society

Recipient: *Sandy Lau*

Presenter: Debbi Cohn Steinkohl



Louisa Burns Society

Recipient: *Kristine Nelson*

Presenter: Dr. Natasha Bray



Robert Klein Society

Recipient: *Stacey Seastrom*

Presenter: Dr. Kenneth Johnson



Bradley I. Silverman Society

Recipient: *John Malone*

Presenter: Dr. Samuel Snyder



A.T. Still Society

Recipient: *Pamela Schmidt*

Presenter: Dr. David Thomas



Morton Terry Society

Recipient: *Vanessa Lalley*

Presenter: Dr. Naushira Pandya



James Turner Society

Recipient: *Daniela Perez-Velasco*

Presenter: Dr. James Howell



Ross Zafonte Society

Recipient: *Preetam Gongidi*

Presenter: Dr. Pablo Calzada

(Not present): Chris Edwards (Lippman Society) and Sean Horan (Silvagni Society).

D.O. Day on Capitol Hill Inspires Students

By Vi Song Tring, OMS-I

When spring arrives in our nation's capitol, so do hundreds of osteopathic physicians and students to attend D.O. Day on Capitol Hill. Their main purpose was to lobby members of Congress and their staff concerning critical issues affecting national health care. This annual event was a great opportunity to immerse 31 young student physicians from NSU-COM into the legislative process that directly impacts our national health care system. The special day also shows our congressional members that physicians and students from the osteopathic profession comprehend the importance of effecting change to benefit our national health care system and protect the osteopathic profession by leaving behind our demanding schedules in order to meet with them face to face.

On April 24, osteopathic physicians and students attended a morning legislative briefing, followed by scheduled meetings with members of Congress and their staff in the afternoon. The morning briefing was led by Shawn Martin, director of the AOA Department of Government Relations, who delivered a detailed report of recent legislative efforts led by the AOA. The top issues to be discussed with our congressional members encompassed Medicare funding and encouraging lawmakers to place issues concerning obesity as a top national priority. Representative David Camp from Michigan also made an appearance to provide an update on legislative efforts in progress on Capitol Hill.

The director of federal advocacy, Leann Fox, gave additional suggestions to the motivated group of physicians and students. She emphasized that besides lobbying for legislation promoted by the AOA, we should be ready to educate our legislators about osteopathic medicine and the history of our profession. These informative briefings allowed physicians and students alike to effectively convey critical concerns to their congressional members and staff. Even though a few students felt intimidated speaking with lawmakers, the physicians in attendance were encouraging and allowed students to voice their opinions and discuss the fundamentals of the osteopathic profession. OMS-II Christina Bergeron said, "We had about 45 minutes with Representative Robert Wexler of Florida, and he was on par with doctors and students to improve the health care system."

At the conclusion of D.O. Day on the Hill, students were reminded that their involvement in the legislative process did not end with their last meeting. They were highly encouraged to nurture their relationship with their lawmakers and staff members by attending town hall meetings, participating



Pictured at D.O. Day on the Hill (from left) are Vi Song Tring (OMS-I), Matthew Levine (OMS-II), Deidre Bass (OMS-III), Representative Ron Klein of Florida, Kimberley Taft, Cristina DuPree, D.O., and Joseph A. Giaimo, D.O.

in campaigns, and corresponding with them via emails or phone calls. OMS-II Matt Reynolds stated that D.O. Day on the Hill allowed him to gain a better understanding of political advocacy and medicine. "I think there is a lack of knowledge from a medical student's

perspective as far as what we need to know because, as you know, we get too caught up in our day-to-day studies and miss out on what our future holds," he explained.

Teaching Tool Helps Assess Faculty-Student Interaction

For the past several years, Stanley Cohen, Ed.D., M.Ed., HPD vice provost for educational support, has been using the Flanders Interaction Analysis tool taken from *The Role of the Teacher in the Classroom: A Manual for Understanding and Improving Teacher Classroom Behavior* by Edmund J. Amidon and Ned A. Flanders. This method for analyzing the verbal interaction in a classroom has proven invaluable for helping HPD faculty members pinpoint areas that might need improvement or for understanding why some classes work so well.

The classroom analyses Dr. Cohen performs have always been at the request of the instructor. In an effort to attract more faculty members to take advantage of this service, the HPD Center for Teaching and Learning posted more information about the Flanders Interaction Analysis on its departmental Web site. In addition, Kathleen Hagen, who serves as HPD director of faculty development, spearheaded the creation of several videos about the analysis, including descriptions of the categories used, a sample interaction showing how the categories were applied, the development of a matrix, and the interpretation of the results.

According to Dr. Cohen, "The impact of these videos has been outstanding. Not only have we received questions from many parts of our country, but inquiries have come from England, India, and China, he said. "To our surprise, our departmental Web site has had a global impact. We truly live in a shrinking world."

If you would like to learn more about the Flanders Interaction Analysis, please go to www.nova.edu/hpdtesting/ctl/fia.html. If you would like to have an analysis performed on a class, please contact Dr. Cohen at (954) 262-1524 or scohen@nova.edu.

CBAP Campus Safety and Training Seminar Provides Essential Information

In the wake of the catastrophic campus shootings that occurred at Virginia Tech last year, college and university administrators across the country have been asking themselves questions such as: “Are we safer today?” “Can it happen again?”

If the February 2008 shootings at Northern Illinois University—where the gunmen killed six students and injured over a dozen others—are any indication, the answer is yes, it can indeed happen again. As to whether educational institutions are safer, the answer depends on how prepared individual colleges and universities are.

To address these crucial issues, NSU-COM’s Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP) coordinated a two-day symposium on April 25-26 entitled Campus Safety and Security: A Call to Action for Higher Education at the university’s Health Professions Division campus in Davie, Florida. Over 50 individuals from across the country attended the conference, which was geared toward college and university administrators but also tailored for school administrators from the pre-K through high school level, campus safety officers, law enforcement officials, and others involved in campus safety.

Conference attendees were able to participate in a mix of seminars and tabletop scenario activities that provided them with the requisite information to return to their respective institutions and implement vital campus safety and security measures.



Faculty and staff members who contributed to the symposium’s success are (back row from left): Amy Heemsoth, CBAP administrative program manager; Shilpa Sarang, CBAP research associate; Marisa Braun, M.D., M.S., CBAP research associate; Dr. Leonard Levy, CBAP director; Lynn Carnegie-Vogl, CBAP administrative assistant; Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, CBAP project manager; and John Pellosie, D.O., M.P.H., assistant professor of preventive medicine and public health. Pictured (front row from left) are: Debra Hauss, all-hazards grant coordinator, Broward Community College (CBAP); Jessica De Leon, Ph.D., CBAP research associate; and Sally Bragg, R.N., M.S.N., CBAP assistant project manager.



Speakers at the CBAP campus safety training and security seminar included (from left) Dr. Ronald Stephens, Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, Dr. Leonard Levy, Scott Friedman, Tess Kruger, and Dr. Scott Poland.

“This symposium was important not only because of the campus emergencies this past year at Virginia Tech and North Illinois, but because it provided an interdisciplinary forum for college and university administrators and security officials to come together with community health officials, emergency

responders, and law enforcement personnel to learn, plan, and practice together,” said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., who serves as CBAP project manager.

Day one of the symposium provided an opportunity for participants to learn from and interact with officials from the field, while day two targeted specific skills. While the participants were attending a lecture, a “created” emergency occurred. With assistance from the South Carolina AHEC and national ASPR training center, a mock explosion transpired. Using life-sized blowup mannequins, the symposium participants responded to the explosion and provided triage and care.

Discussion Topics

- **Psychosocial Applications** – Scott Poland, Ed.D., associate professor at NSU’s Center for Psychological Studies
- **The State Response to Governor’s Safety and Governor’s Campus Safety Plan** – Jennifer Bencie Fairburn, M.D., M.S.A., director of the Florida Department of Health’s Division of Emergency Medical Operations
- **The Role of Law Enforcement** – Ian Moffitt, Miami-Dade School Police Department, and Scott Friedman, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
- **The Role of Response Management** – Tess Kruger, J.D., vice president of university affairs at Winona University
- **Intervention Strategies: Best Practices** – Ronald Stephens, Ed.D., executive director of the National School Safety Center
- **The Role of Campus Administration** – James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., CBAP project director, and Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., CBAP director
- **Overview of All-Hazards in Campus Safety and Security** – Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., CBAP project manager

FOMA Health Fair Breaks Attendance Records

By OMS-II Nicholas St. Hilaire, FOMA President



Christopher Siano, D.O., and Nicholas St. Hilaire at the FOMA Health Fair.

The Annual NSU/FOMA Health Fair, held April 19 at the Tower Shops/Home Depot Plaza in Davie, was established eight years ago when Dr. Christopher Siano, then an NSU-COM student, presented the idea to Dr. Morton

Morris. His vision was

to offer a free multidisciplinary event to the community involving several colleges from the NSU Health Professions Division. The health fair's purpose is to offer free health screenings and to guide community members as to their health status and ways they can live a healthy lifestyle. Every year, more colleges from the HPD become involved, and more community members come out to participate in the fair. The fair's continued success is due largely to the consistent involvement of students and faculty members from the HPD colleges as well as generous donations from various vendors in the area.

This year's health fair featured the best turnout in terms of student involvement and number of participants—approximately 900—in the event's history. Colleges and organizations in attendance included

- Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
- College of Osteopathic Medicine
- College of Allied Health and Nursing
- College of Dental Medicine
- College of Optometry
- College of Pharmacy
- Center for Psychological Studies
- NSU-COM Pediatrics Club
- NSU-COM OB/GYN Club
- Poison Control Center
- Chartwell's
- Broward Health
- Memorial Health Care System
- Town of Davie Fire Department
- Town of Davie Police Department
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- MetLife
- Community Blood Centers of South Florida

Every college had a manned booth that offered screenings and health advice in its area of expertise. There were also fun activities for the children, such as a bounce house and face painting from the Pediatrics Club. Also in attendance was a bloodmobile as well as a mobile unit for screening cholesterol.

Dr. Siano's vision has come a long way since he first presented it to Dr. Morris. Community members, faculty members, and students all look forward to participating in this annual event. In addition, the number of returning familiar faces from the community increases yearly—as does the amount of new patrons. To me, the fair is a reminder that big things can be accomplished with the idea and hard work of just a couple of motivated people. I have been inspired by the hard work and perseverance of Dr. Siano and Dr. Morris to keep this fair going every year and always striving to increase turnout. I am especially proud to have played the part of health fair coordinator this year and look forward to being involved for many years to come.

Eye on AHEC

The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program has been partnering with a wide range of community groups throughout South and Central Florida. Its activities have included

- collaborating with the Broward County Health Department and the American Lung Association to develop a series of group tobacco cessation classes for the public now being held in multiple locations throughout the county
- working with the Southeast Florida Girl Scout Council to develop tobacco prevention programming for Girl Scout chapters in both Palm Beach and Martin counties
- partnering with over 50 community health centers, rural hospitals, and other sites throughout AHEC's 19 county South and Central Florida service area to develop and support onsite and ongoing tobacco cessation services for underserved populations
- collaborating with the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, Florida Academy of Physician Assistants, and Florida Association of School Nurses to conduct continuing education workshops that provide training for health providers throughout Florida on effective techniques for supplying tobacco cessation/prevention education at their practice sites

The AHEC Program also worked closely with the College of Pharmacy to develop special seminars and workshops on tobacco cessation and prevention. Through these efforts, approximately 400 practicing pharmacists and 200 graduating pharmacy students were trained by AHEC to become part of an army of medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy, and other health professions students and providers that is better prepared by AHEC to address tobacco cessation and prevention in its pharmacy practices.

Rural Medicine Retreat Combines CME and Recognition



Attendees at the Rural Medicine Retreat included (clockwise from left) Carlos Romero, D.O., Jennifer Romero, D.O., Jacqueline Marsan, M.P.A., Dr. Silvagni, Delia Celestine, Fatima Zafar, M.D., Michael Gervasi, D.O., Dr. Howell, and John Geake, D.O.

On June 6-8, the college's Department of Rural Medicine hosted its annual conference and recognition weekend for physicians, nurses, and administrators from its network of rural/underserved training partners. These clinical centers participate in the education of NSU-COM medical students and afford them the opportunity to render service in medically underserved communities.

The Rural Medicine Retreat, which was held at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort and Marina in Stuart, Florida, was coordinated and hosted by James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the rural medicine department, Delia Celestine, M.P.H., rural medicine administrative director, and Johneta Goodwin, director of administrative operations. The retreat, which is part of the college's AHEC mission to extend academic resources to rural/underserved safety net sites throughout the state, brings NSU-COM faculty members together with primary care physicians and other providers from various community health centers, Florida Department of Correctional sites, and private physician's offices to provide continuing education on vital health issues.

The retreat provides attendees with a relaxed, informal setting in which to earn continuing medical education credits and explore ways of addressing primary care and workforce needs in medically needy communities throughout the Sunshine State. It also serves as a suitable

way to express gratitude to the numerous statewide preceptors who take time out of their busy schedules to work with NSU-COM students during their mandatory three-month clinical rotations in rural medicine.

A number of germane topics were discussed at this year's retreat, including

Obesity Update 2008

Robert Hasty, D.O.

Update on Diabetes Management

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD

Obstructive Sleep Apnea Update 2008

Robert Hasty, D.O.

CEME Site Updates

■ **Sun Coast Hospital** in Largo, Florida, which is a facility of Largo Medical Center and a member of NSU-COM's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME), is one of only three existing rheumatology fellowship programs in the osteopathic profession. The two-year program, which is approved for two fellows by the ACOI and the AOA, graduated its first fellow last year: Dr. Susan Zito, who has remained at Sun Coast to become its fourth attending rheumatologist along with Dr. Robert DiGiovanni, who serves as program director, Dr. Steven Fink, and Dr. Jian Mah at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center.

■ The **Broward County Medical Examiner's Office** is the only forensic pathology fellowship training program jointly accredited by the AOA and ACGME. The program's 2009-10 fellow will be Samantha Greene, D.O., who is currently completing her anatomic pathology residency training program at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, California.

■ The **NSU-COM/Palmetto General Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program** was granted GI Bill program status in May 2008. The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs approved the program to train veterans under the provisions outlined by the U.S. Veterans Affairs GI Bill program, which means any qualified veterans currently enrolled or entering the residency program are eligible to receive a stipend from the GI Bill program during their residency training. Currently, the NSU-COM/Palmetto General Hospital Family Medicine Residency program comprises one resident who qualifies for the program: Joseph Vickaryous, D.O. (PGY-2), who was in active duty in the military for four years as a general medical officer before returning to residency training last year.



NSU Division of Clinical Operations Report

By Robert Oller, D.O.
CEO, NSU Health Care Centers



On March 30, NSU coordinated one of its popular community outreach events called **Boomers and Beyond: A Day for Health and Wellness**, which was formerly known as the NSU Healthy Aging Expo. The event, which attracted over 750 attendees, is devoted to providing area adults and senior citizens with information and resources needed to live and age well because you are “never too young to start living and aging well.” **Boomers and Beyond**, which is the adult complement to our highly successful **A Day for Children** event held annually in September, was expanded in 2008 to include adults of all ages. Activities included a broad array of wellness-related lectures and health care screenings, health and aging information, healthy snacks, raffle prizes, and much, much more. NSU remains committed to enhancing the health and well being of all generations of our extended community. Following is other news of note:

- The Division of Clinical Operations was able to obtain a \$50,000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida to help support our community outreach programs over the next two years.
- In December 2007, the Division of Clinical Operations hired a registered licensed dietician, Marilyn Gordon, who is responsible for providing nutritional counseling and education to all NSU faculty and staff members, students, and patients within our health centers.

In addition, with the recent tragedies on university campuses, NSU has implemented a university-wide education and resource center through the Student Counseling and Crises Intervention Program under the direction of the Division of Clinical Operations. The program includes the educational process for faculty, staff, and students in recognizing and intervening when students at risk or students demonstrating threatening behavior pose a potential danger. A university safety net committee for university personnel requesting consultation regarding questionable behavior problems of students also has been developed. In addition, NSU's student counseling program has initiated a partnership with various Florida universities and colleges that involves coordinating a mutual-aid program of counselors to deploy counseling resources to any participating college or university that experiences a major tragedy.

Student Government Association Report

By Roger Alvarez, OMS-III and SGA President

Our spring has been very exciting, and we've had the opportunity to celebrate many of the achievements of our COM colleagues locally and nationally.

SOSA Named Club of the Year – The Student Osteopathic Surgical Association (SOSA) was very active this year with suture clinics, surgical lectures, and other educational activities culminating in hosting the National SOSA Convention this past spring where 300 students participated in autopsy, OMM, suturing, casting, airway, and more. SOSA certainly set an example for other organizations on campus, inside and outside of the COM.

Fit for Life Project – The SGA Step it Up pedometer project had 200 participants who walked 8,000 miles promoting wellness and setting an example for their colleagues and future patients. Recipients received pedometers, water bottles, T-shirts, and other prizes for the highest “steppers.” Congratulations to the class of 2011 for having amassed over nine million steps.

Second Annual Clinical Preceptor of the Year – The SGA recognized several clinical preceptors for the exceptional training and assistance they provided to the third- and fourth-year medical students. The following physicians were nominated by students and selected by a committee made up of student and faculty leaders for their dedication to their students and patients: South Region - *Mark Grossman, M.D.*; Central Region - *Sudhira Kulatunga, M.D.*; North Region - *Ashley Hill, M.D.*

2008-2009 Student Government Association E-Board: President – *Jessica Hilst, OMS-III*; Vice President – *Lindsay LaCorte, OMS-II*; Treasurer – *Meghna Shah, OMS-II*.

This is my final report as SGA president, so thanks to all of my SGA and student organization colleagues for their hard work. It has been an honor working for you this past year. Congratulations to our graduates and best of luck to all.

Looking Back...at Our Several Homes



Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc.

Some wise person once said, “Buildings do not a college make.” That was right, but they certainly contribute—sometimes greatly—to the development and significance of an institution of higher learning.

The various homes we have had for our schools have played a major part in making us what we are today. And they are now part of our history.

Some years before Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) was born, an entrepreneur who

was planning to open a nursing home constructed a three-story building in North Miami Beach, on the south side of 168th Street (across from Osteopathic General Hospital (OGH) on 167th Street). Seeing this structure going up inspired Dr. Morton Terry and his group to approach the developer and offer to buy it. The builder sold it, and OGH owned another structure.

When our board of directors sold Osteopathic General, the money was earmarked for the development of a medical school. Fortunately, the board members were wise enough to withhold that original building from the sale—to hold it for their dream. When SECOM was established in 1979, it provided a logical “home” for the new school. Old and decrepit by today’s standards, the three-story structure provided shelter and service for a number of years—even until today. We launched our educational efforts with three rooms on the second floor: a secretary’s office and an office each for Dr. Terry and me. After some restructuring, the building provided administrative and faculty offices, OPP and anatomy laboratories, lecture rooms, bookstore, audiovisual center, and student lounge. We expanded, or rather, exploded from there.

While this was occurring, the new owners continued to operate the old OGH, eventually changing its name to match ours: Southeastern Medical Center (SMC).

In addition to our building (on the south side of the 1700 block of 168th Street), there were several homes south of it and just across the alleyway, literally located between the “nursing home” building and the hospital. The board purchased almost all of those properties to have land for further expansion. One quite elderly lady who owned in that block flatly refused to sell, saying she had lived there for years and was going to die in that house. In the end, Dr. Terry made her an offer she could hardly refuse—“Sell us the house and live in it free of rent until you die.” She accepted, and in a couple of years we took possession of that house, too. Only a small nursery school on the corner of 17th Avenue and 167th Street totally refused and remains in that location to this day.

It wasn’t long before we felt the squeeze of insufficient space. So we constructed a new architecturally beautiful three-story edifice on that land, at the corner of 18th Avenue and 167th

Street, directly across the street from SMC and just south of our “administration” building on the ground where the purchased properties stood. It became our Education Building and contained two 108-seat auditorium classrooms, a library on the second floor, and two large multipurpose teaching laboratories on the third floor.

We soon needed more space, so in 1988 we constructed our Student Activities Building, which was an attractive addition to our campus, right next to the Education Building. Its four stories offered a large auditorium, new and expanded library, cafeteria, student lounges, gymnasium, a large laboratory, racquetball court, audiovisual center, and computer facility. And that was SECOM’s home as the 1980s came to a close—the John S. Hull Administration Building (the old nursing home), the Education Building, and the Student Activities Building.

In that same year, we became Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, after we added the College of Pharmacy and College of Optometry.

Meanwhile, the hospital across the street—formerly Osteopathic General and then renamed Southeastern Medical Center—was operating and providing clinical training for our students. Then, the new owners, who also owned Parkway Hospital just a few miles away, decided to close the institution to limit competition. We were able to buy the building for a reasonable amount because the sellers prohibited its use again as a hospital. It was added to our ever-expanding institution—five floors with all the accoutrements of a hospital, which we immediately started to convert to educational and administrative purposes. It greatly expanded our physical plant, and when remodeling was completed, we had auditoria, several large classrooms, considerable clinic space, many faculty and physicians’ offices, and administrative space for SECOM and our other schools. We also constructed a parking garage next to the building and owned about 20 nearby private homes that we used for student housing.

So, from the three-room administrative office we began with in 1980, we had grown by 1994 to Southeastern University of the Health Sciences with three schools and a significant campus. Our buildings totaled about 350,000 square feet—attractive, spacious, utilitarian, and, most important, a home we loved—a \$20 million campus.

(PERSONAL NOTE: My thanks to the dozen or so “old-timers” who helped me check my memory. To reinforce that, I made an unannounced, anonymous visit to the “old” campus, now extensively remodeled for the NSU Fischler School of Education and Human Services. It was changed, but still great—and what a wonderful rush of nostalgia it brought.)



Dr. Arnold Melnick is the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (the precursor to NSU-COM). His pithy columns serve as a humorous and insightful bridge to the past—and remind us of how far our college has come in a relatively short period of time.

Faculty Focus

Renee Alexis, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, has been elected chief of the Department of OB/GYN at Broward General Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Joseph Allgeier, D.O., FACOFP, clinical assistant professor of family medicine and director of medical education for osteopathic programs at Florida Hospital East Orlando, was awarded the designation of fellow during the ACOFP's Annual Conclave of Fellows Awards Ceremony, which was held March 15 at the organization's 45th Annual Convention and Exhibition in Denver, Colorado. The honorary designation of fellow is bestowed upon those candidates who have contributed outstanding national and local service through teaching, authorship, research, or professional leadership.

Arthur Berman, D.O., clinical instructor of internal medicine, had his article entitled "Efficacy of Rifaximin and Vancomycin Combination Therapy in a Patient with Refractory *Clostridium Difficile*-Associated Diarrhea" published in the November/December 2007 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology*.

Rosebud Foster, Ed.D., special assistant to the chancellor, recently made a presentation on "Reducing Colorectal Cancer in Vulnerable Populations," which was selected as a Best Practice by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for inclusion at the recent HRSA All-Grantees Meeting in Washington, D.C. Dr. Foster also continues to provide leadership in collaborating with the new Florida Public Health Institute in developing an intensive and comprehensive training course in applied public health.

Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc., professor of public health and director of biomedical informatics, coauthored "A White Paper: Building a Roadmap for Health Information Systems Interoperability for Public Health (Public Health Uses of Electronic Health Record Data)," which was facilitated by the Public Health Data Standards Consortium and the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise. Dr. Lou, along with other NSU-COM faculty members, also made two oral presentations at HPD Research Day in April on the topics "Emergency Preparedness Training Needs for Children with Autism" and "Relationship Between Physician Supply and Breast Cancer Survival: A Geographic Approach."

Barbara Kornblau, J.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, recently joined the college's Master of Public Health Program faculty. Kornblau previously worked at NSU's College of Allied Health and Nursing and is in the midst of completing her Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy



Dr. Alexis



Dr. Foster



Dr. Lou



Dr. Mulligan



Dr. Pellosie



Dr. Sciberras



Dr. Snyder

Fellowship training. One of her primary responsibilities as an M.P.H. faculty member will be to establish a Health Policy Institute at NSU-COM.

Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of NSU's Institute for Child Health Policy, was featured in the April 23 issue of *The Miami Herald* in an article entitled "Balancing Through Time Zones." The article featured interviews with some of South Florida's top women executives, who provided advice about job pressures and maintaining a healthy home life with their families.

John Pellosie, Jr., D.O., M.P.H., FAOCOPM, assistant professor of preventive medicine and public health, was named as a subject matter expert who will assist the Florida Department of Health with its implementation of the 2007-2010 Public Health and Medical Preparedness Strategic Plan.

Nina Ramirez, M.D., clinical assistant professor of pediatrics, presented a lecture at Palms West Hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida, to pediatric residents and medical students about the new pediatric asthma guidelines that have been adopted.

Andrea Sciberras, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, was elected to the Gold Coast Home Health and Hospice Services Advisory Board in Fort Lauderdale.

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc. FACOFP dist., dean of NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, has been appointed to the Friends of WLRN Inc. Board of Directors. Friends of WLRN is a nonprofit organization, incorporated in 1974, whose purpose is to support WLRN Public Radio and Television and contribute to nurturing the quality and vitality of public media in South Florida. Dr. Silvagni has also been named chairman elect of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Deans.

Samuel Snyder, D.O., FACP, FACOI, FASN, associate professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, had his article entitled "Reducing Cardiovascular Risk and ESRD in Chronic Kidney Disease Patients" published in the April 2008 issue of *Osteopathic Family Physician News*. The article was coauthored by Danielle Thomas, D.O., who is a second-year internal medicine resident at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. He also spoke at the North Carolina chapter of the ACOFP on "Chronic Kidney Disease and the Metabolic Syndrome" and is having his chapter on glomerulonephritis published in *Evidence At Hand*, which is a new medical textbook designed for handheld computers.

Dr. Patterson Bids Adieu to NSU



Michael Patterson, Ph.D., who spent the past eight years working as professor and assistant chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, recently retired from the college to spend more time with his family. To commemorate Dr. Patterson's years of service, NSU-COM coordinated a farewell party that allowed students, staff, and faculty members to say a proper goodbye and wish him well in his future endeavors. In the accompanying photo, Dr. Patterson receives his plaque of appreciation from Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni.

AACOM/AODME Annual Meeting Faculty Presentations

A number of NSU-COM faculty members participated in presentations given at the 2008 AACOM and AODME Joint Annual Meeting held April 9-12 in St. Louis, Missouri:

End-of-Life Training for Physicians: Preliminary Results of a Pre-/Post-Experimental/Control Group Design Using a CD-R Based Self-Instruction Program
Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H.
Daniel Shaw, Ph.D.

Pandemic Preparedness: The Plan for the Profession—A School Template for Planning and a Toolkit for Action
Sally Bragg, R.N., M.S.N.
Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.
John Pellosie, D.O., M.P.H.
Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D.

NSU Research Grant Recipients

On May 14, several COM faculty members, in collaboration with other NSU faculty members, were awarded cash endowments in the Eighth Annual President's Faculty Research and Development Grant (PFRDG) program, which was created in 1999 to provide funding to faculty members in their efforts to secure additional resources for research activities. Each spring, PFRDG awards of up to \$10,000 are provided to full-time faculty members based on the quality of their applications. Following are the COM recipients:

Ronald Bekic, D.O.
"A Multidisciplinary Health Intervention for the Treatment of Metabolic Syndrome"
Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H.
"The Effects of Various Breathing Patterns on Heart Rate Variability"

Dr. Deborah Mulligan Wins Melnick Child Advocate Award



Pictured (from left) at the May 22 award ceremony are previous Melnick Child Advocate Award recipients Roni Leiderman, Ph.D., dean of NSU's Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies (2004); Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H., T.M., FACOF, director, M.P.H. Program (2005); and Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, chair, Department of Pediatrics (2006) along with Dr. Mulligan. Also pictured are OMS-II Danielle Wallach, vice president, Pediatrics Club, and OMS-II Sean Branch, president, Pediatrics Club.

Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of NSU's Institute for Child Health Policy, was the recipient of the Fifth Annual NSU-COM Pediatrics Club Arnold Melnick Child Advocate Award. The accolade is named in honor of Arnold Melnick, D.O.—the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine—for his lifelong commitment to child advocacy. "It was an extraordinary moment to receive the Melnick Child Advocate Award—an honor so very personal and unique to NSU—amongst cherished friends, esteemed colleagues, and two of my beautiful children," said Dr. Mulligan, who is a former president of the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

"Somebody recently asked me an interesting question: 'What do you believe in?' I believe in magic. Magic is what sets imagination free. Free to believe in all those wonderful, stunning, and awesome things we all used to believe in before we were taught they were actually impossible. Dr. Melnick had a dream; a dream shared with College of Osteopathic Medicine forefathers such as Drs. Terry and Morris. We are reminded through their life legacy that nothing is impossible—if you simply believe."

Service Learning at its Finest: HPD Students Learn Valuable Lessons, Save Lives

By Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A.

Administrative Director, Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum Program



OMS-II Matt Stringer checks the vital signs of a REACH Fair participant.

The student heard something weird. A possible abnormal finding only studied in lecture and lab, but could it really be a murmur...this is just a health fair, and the patient was, after all, just a young man coming in for a checkup? Fast forward through the ambulance transfer to Hendry Regional Medical Center ER, the airlift to a high-tech hospital, and subsequent surgery on the patient's nine-centimeter aneurysm that same night. The news traveled quickly, from student to student and student to faculty, until all 130 NSU students, 22 NSU faculty members, and dozens of community volunteers heard the news.

This is just one life saved, but when you consider the shockingly high number of newly diagnosed cases of diabetes, high blood pressure, and other medical conditions identified by the health care volunteers, the true impact on the Belle Glade, Clewiston, and surrounding community residents is staggering. First-year student Christopher Lynch said, "It might sound obvious, but students come to the powerful realization that what they are learning through their NSU education is not just theoretical but is precious knowledge and skills that can save lives."

February 16, 2008, marked NSU-COM's Seventh Annual AHEC/AMSA Glades Rural Education and Community Health (REACH) Fair, held at Belle Glade Elementary School, while the following day was dedicated to the Fifth Annual Hendry/Glades Community Health Fair, which took place on the campus of Hendry Regional Medical Center in Clewiston. Since the inception of this weekend-long Florida medical mission, thousands of people's lives have been forever changed by the services received by students and faculty members from 12 NSU Health Professions Division programs representing five HPD colleges.

Two factors make this Florida mission unique as compared to most other health fairs. First, it is a true partnership between an interdisciplinary team of NSU academic health care programs, both the Hendry County and Palm Beach County health departments, and local community providers and organizations. In fact, the REACH Fair wouldn't be possible if not for the commitment and hard work of the Everglades AHEC and the Glades Planned Approach to Community Health (PATCH) as well as its Belle Glade-based REACH Planning Committee that is chaired by EAHEC's Shelley Warshaw.

Likewise, the Clewiston health fair wouldn't be possible without the dedication of the local planning committee, run by Toni Pavey from Hendry Regional Medical Center. In addition, the Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health serves as a coordinated entree for individuals to access vital health care services once the fair is over. By design, the checkout and referral process is rather sophisticated for a health fair because NSU is not geographically positioned to provide continuous services out in the Glades communities, so we want to ensure that patients have assistance to figure out a plan for local follow-up. As part of the checkout/referral station at the REACH Fair, the C.L. Brumback Health Center/Palm Beach County Health Department provides "real-time" computerized patient registration, and appointments are scheduled right then and there.

The entire outreach program wouldn't be possible if not for the support and vision of Dr. Steven Zucker, director of the NSU-COM AHEC Program. Dr. Zucker shared his strong philosophy on the value of getting health



Betty Baker, D.O., who won the Outstanding Community Service Award, with her husband Darryl (left) and Thomas Cherizard.

Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health

professions students to immerse themselves in providing health care directly in the most underserved areas within their communities, and to do this early in their professional education. "This endeavor is one of the highlights of our AHEC year because it brings greatly needed health care and education to rural Floridians while also exposing scores of students from a wide range of health care disciplines to the needs, challenges, and practice of rural communities," he stated. "I was also excited and proud to learn that NSU-COM alumna Dr. Betty Baker was selected to receive the Outstanding Community Service Award because she exemplifies the finest in patient care, student/resident education, and commitment to service in Belle Glade and the surrounding rural Glades communities."

Students and faculty members had the opportunity to stay overnight at the Roland Martin Marina Hotel in Clewiston, and they literally had a chance to taste and experience life in a rural, primarily agricultural community. At the Saturday dinner celebration, sixth-generation Floridian Hunter Latham spoke of Clewiston's history, and students had the opportunity to taste raw sugarcane and understand why this town is marked with a welcome sign that reads "Clewiston...America's Sweetest Town."

In my role as AMSA's faculty advisor, I worked very closely with the student organizers and am so proud to have so many dedicated students who willingly serve as volunteers and have their values and professional priorities aligned with the greater societal needs.

"It was a wonderful experience to see that the effort of a few could make an impact on so many. We were all honored by the attendance and keynote presentation of Florida Surgeon General Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros, who spoke to us about the importance of our work and our continued vigilance to provide health care to the underserved. It was truly a privilege to have her there along with HPD deans like Dr. Silvagni, Dr. Laubauch, and Dr. Davis and countless other NSU professional staff supporting our efforts. Their dedication to aiding the underserved population in Florida goes a long way to encourage us as students to never lose sight of what is truly important in medicine. As medical students, we are here to learn a set of skills to share with our community, both locally and globally. No matter what our struggles may be while in medical school, we are living a privileged life, and it is our responsibility to give back to the community by sharing those skills in whatever way we can. On the first day of service at Belle Glade Elementary School, I was amazed at the number of people who were drawn to the health fair to seek services from a primary care practitioner. Even more exciting was the level of comprehensive care provided by students, faculty members, and community health professionals, including services such as physical exams by physicians and physician assistants, lab services, nursing screenings, and education, dental, vision, hearing, and occupational and physical therapy. As much as I learned about medicine, I learned an even more-important lesson about service. I look forward to the honor and responsibility of planning and participating again next year."

OMS-I Avery Lee Thornhill, incoming NSU-COM AMSA president, who plans to practice in rural Alabama once she graduates.



Sandra Chamblee, Elizabeth Cayson, and Ana Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H., who serves as Florida's surgeon general, at the AHEC/AMSA Florida Rural Medical Mission for Health celebration dinner.

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HPD Research Day Serves as Essential Educational Enhancement

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

There's no denying the fact that research is one of the key components that propels a university's growth and increases its stature in the academic world, which explains why NSU and its Health Professions Division have placed increased emphasis on research in recent years. On April 25, 2008, after several years of careful planning, the Health Professions Division reached a significant milestone when it held its inaugural HPD Research Day, which attracted an estimated 1,700 attendees to the Signature Grand in Davie and featured over 100 poster and platform presentations.

The seeds of Research Day first germinated several years ago when faculty members from the College of Dental Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine separately approached Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., about showcasing their colleges' research projects. "After this occurred, I went to see Dr. Fred Lippman to ask him what he thought of the idea of coordinating a research day that included participation

from all six HPD colleges," said Dr. Hardigan, who serves as HPD executive director of assessment, evaluation, and faculty development. "He said, 'It sounds like a good idea, so why don't you do some planning?' I then got together with all the research deans from each college and pitched the idea, which was unanimously accepted."

Initial Research Day planning began in 2006, which included setting aside a day in the spring of 2008 that would be included in the curricula of all HPD colleges and forming a multidisciplinary committee that featured representation from each college. Next on the agenda was the monumental task of coordinating a complex array of tasks that ranged from programming and logistics to fundraising. "A number of individuals contributed to the event's success, but if it weren't for the efforts of Dr. Lippman, Kathleen Hagen, who serves as HPD director of faculty development, and Mislady Velez from the College of Pharmacy, who coordinated the fundraising

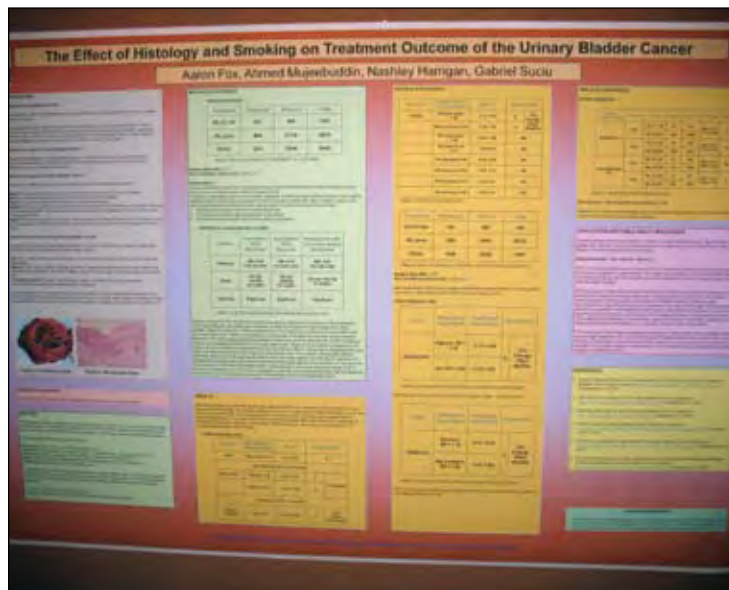
and awards portions of Research Day, the event would not have happened."

Not surprisingly, the College of Osteopathic Medicine played an integral role in the event, with Drs. Gabriel Suciu from the Master of Public Health Program and M. Isabel Fernandez from the Behavioral Health Promotion Program serving as mentors for all COM projects displayed or presented during Research Day. In all, NSU-COM students and faculty members contributed 12 oral and 12 poster presentations to the event.

In addition, five NSU-COM students earned HPD Research Day awards for their efforts:

- ☺ Alberto Caban-Martinez (OMS-III) – Oral Presentation Award
- ☺ Andrea Gajeton (OMS-II) – Poster Presentation Award
- ☺ Mark Newberry (OMS-III) – Oral Presentation Award
- ☺ Kristina Trubey (OMS-III) – Poster Presentation Award
- ☺ Audrea Vaughan (OMS-I) – Poster Presentation Award

Although both Hagen and Dr. Hardigan categorized the inaugural event as a resounding success, they already envision some enhancements they hope to make by the time the next HPD Research Day event rolls around on February 12, 2010. "There were so many unknowns considering we had never done this before," Dr. Hardigan said. "In 2010, my goals are to incorporate more of a thematic approach, ensure better integration of students, and improve crowd control." As for Hagen, her objectives include "doing a better job of getting in touch with the different class presidents and including them on what we're doing and what we're hoping for from them so they can spread the word to their classmates. I'd also like to open the event to the public so people outside of the university can see what we're doing in regard to research."



Because most health professionals hope to become clinicians once they complete their various educational requirements, Hagen sees added value in the implementation of such a vital research event. "Most students are working toward becoming clinicians, but if they have a chance to learn about this other area they can get into and broaden their horizons, I hope we can play a role in nurturing a new generation of researchers," she explained. "They just need the exposure to see how it's done and how to pursue the research path if that's something that interests them."

Dr. Hardigan says Research Day is a win-win situation for all involved because it also "helps us promote our research by presenting what the faculty does and showing it to the students. Many of our students go to class and leave without understanding that what they're being taught is also what many of the faculty members are doing in the HPD labs, which is staying up-to-date in their own research," he said. "Research Day serves as a perfect venue to address this, which is something we're really happy about."

"There are not enough physicians doing research today, especially D.O.s, so if we could inspire some of our students to pursue a research career, that would be a great outcome," he added. "If even one or two students gain an interest in doing research based on what they learned during Research Day, we've accomplished our mission."

NSU Amplifies Research Emphasis: A Conversation with Dr. Gary Margules

By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications



Gary Margules, Sc.D.

The categorical success of HPD Research Day simply served to underscore the fact that Nova Southeastern University is well on its way to establishing itself as an institution that is as renowned for its research endeavors as it is for its diverse educational programs.

To help the university reach its maximum research potential, NSU recruited Gary S.

Margules, Sc.D., to serve as its inaugural vice president for research and technology transfer effective January 2, 2008. In this role, Dr. Margules is responsible for the coordination and facilitation of basic and applied research through sponsored-research administration (i.e., grants and contracts), clinical research, research compliance, commercial research through technology transfer, assisting faculty with patents, and research communications. In addition, he is in charge of coordinating and facilitating clinical research through collaborations, master agreements with industry, and investigator-initiated clinical trials with various funding sources.

very strong," he added. "Leg three applies to any university with a medical school because patient care is a crucial aspect, and we certainly accomplish this through the 350,000 or so patient encounters seen at our clinics."

However, as successful and cutting-edge as NSU has been over the years, there's been one pivotal leg that's needed strengthening—research. "If you have a table with four legs and you cut one off, it doesn't stand very well," Dr. Margules explained. "Research clearly is intertwined and connected with the other legs in terms of education because if the students can receive some kind of exposure to research during their time here, it enhances their educational experience, which means we can attract better students. By conducting research, we can also attract better faculty to work with those students in areas such as basic, applied, and clinical research.

"Research is vital because it does something for the education mission, it does something for the clinical mission, and it also does something for the community leg of the table because people in a community like to point to their local university and say, 'They provide education, they take care of our community, and it's a research school, too,'" he added. "Even in terms of philanthropy, people like to donate to research schools. The

"Our overall research is still in the very early stages," Dr. Margules admitted. "However, with the addition of the Center for Collaborative Research in the next few years, our growth potential will be significantly greater."

"I think it's well known that all universities that have attained a certain level and stature on a national scale have what I call the four legs of the table. Not in any particular order is leg one, which involves education and the academic mission," said Dr. Margules, who previously served as assistant vice provost of technology transfer and industry research for the University of Miami for 15 years. "Clearly, NSU is very strong in its education with close to 27,000 students and major efforts in enhancing and improving the quality of education and the quality of the experience for the students.

"Leg two for a university that is located in an area such as ours is community or public service. And NSU is well-regarded in this area because it participates in local, tri-county, state, national, and international activities. So as far as serving the public and our relationships with the community, we're very,

other thing about having a reputation as a research school is that it also helps in terms of the patients that want to come here. Patients that have significant medical problems find comfort in knowing the doctor they're seeing is on the cutting edge of knowledge."

According to Dr. Margules, there is one other research phase that will help propel NSU to new heights: commercial research/technology transfer. "There are now people here at NSU who are working on research projects or inventions that are commercially viable," said Dr. Margules, who also is responsible for establishing and continuing relationships with members of the research community such as the Florida Research Consortium, the South Florida Bioscience Consortium, BioFlorida, Scripps, and other universities. "In order for these inventions to help the public, they need to

get out of here and into the hands of the corporations. As we continue to progress in this area, we will eventually have a research organization just like every other major university that serves as an umbrella to all the NSU colleges and centers and acts as a centralized focal point for all research.”

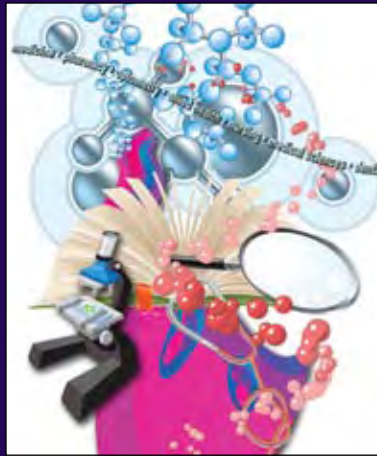
Currently, there are five patents in the works dealing with projects created by various NSU faculty members. “Two are associated with the NSU Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research under the direction of Dr. Appu Rathinavelu, who is chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutical and Administration Sciences,” Dr. Margules stated. “Two others were generated through the College of Dental Medicine, with one related to dental materials and the other dealing with stem cells and regenerative medicine. The fifth patent is related to hurricane predicting from the Oceanographic Center.”

To ameliorate matters, especially in regard to research contracts, Dr. Margules has hired an attorney who will help guide the university to new levels of research-related proficiency. “Katherine Rose, assistant vice president, who came from the University of Miami, has 10 years of experience and has done hundreds of research-premised agreements,” Dr. Margules said. “In terms of clinical research at the College of Osteopathic Medicine, I see a great potential to enhance, improve, and increase the quality and quantity of clinical research. There will be space in the university’s Center for Collaborative Research, which is expected to be completed sometime in the next two years, that will be available to see patients—and that’s going to be a big help to us as well. In addition to trying to create a centralized office, Katherine and I are very interested in working out master agreements with pharmaceutical firms where they have a master agreement with us, which means that every time a protocol comes along, we don’t have to redo the contract.

“Another aspect we’re working on is establishing uniform budget and contract practices,” he added. “Our goal would be to assist with all the red tape the scientists and clinicians shouldn’t be doing, which will free them up to spend more time directly on their research. We also plan to bring a new grantsmanship capability to the university to help individuals write grant proposals who have never done them before as well as help make the process easier for people who have been involved with writing them in the past.”

Despite the lofty goals the university has regarding its research future, Dr. Margules is quick to point out that NSU is still in its initial growth phase research-wise. “Our overall research is still in the very early stages,” he admitted. “However, with the addition of the Center for Collaborative Research in the next few years, our growth potential will be significantly greater.”

Center for Collaborative Research Looms in NSU’s Future



Within the next two years, NSU will be home to a 208,000 square-foot Center for Collaborative Research (CCR) that will be a cutting-edge, cooperative interdisciplinary center for medical, pharmaceutical, dental, and oceanographic research located just east of the Health Professions Division. The CCR will house one of the largest

wet lab research facilities in Florida, which will serve as a home base for applied health care research and medical informatics. Researchers will collaborate within this advanced environment to investigate pharmaceutical synthesis, cancer therapy, human stem cell research, biomaterials, wildlife DNA forensics, and ocean biomaterials. The CCR will be home to the Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research, Florida Lambda Rail, information and technology services, investigators from the Health Professions Division and Oceanographic Center, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS is partnering with NSU, Florida Atlantic University, and the University of Florida to promote scientific cooperation for the Greater Everglades Restoration Project, which is the largest public works program in U.S. history.



Behavioral Health Promotion Program Grants and Research Update

Over the past several months, NSU-COM's Behavioral Health Promotion Program has been busy accruing grants, working on research projects, and publishing papers. Following is a summary of the department's recent activities.

■ In May 2008, the National Institute of Mental Health of the National Institutes of Health awarded a two-year grant in the amount of \$734,290 to the American Psychological Association (APA) entitled **"Cyber Mentors: A Sustainable Model for Developing Minority HIV Researchers."** M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., professor of public health and director of the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, wrote the grant along with John Anderson, Ph.D., of the APA and will serve as the principal scientific investigator. The grant's purpose is to develop young minority HIV researchers nationwide by linking them with a senior mentor who will help and facilitate each mentee to write scientific papers and develop a grant application that can be submitted for extramural funding. "I am very excited about this grant because I feel that being a mentor for junior faculty is a critical role for experienced researchers and that such assistance in grant writing is often not available during doctoral programs," Dr. Fernandez explained. "I am now at the stage of my career where I can offer to others the help I wish I had gotten myself. Future research in HIV focused on minority populations at high risk is urgently needed, and minority faculty members can offer a unique perspective on such research and have credibility in their home communities."

■ In September 2006 and continuing through September 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded NSU-COM a three-year grant totaling \$1.2 million, with Dr. M. Isabel Fernandez serving as principal investigator. The grant, entitled **"Proyecto SOL: A Risk Reduction Intervention for Hispanic MSM,"** was awarded for the purpose of developing and testing a theory-based behavioral intervention to reduce drug use and risky sexual behavior associated with HIV risk. Participants will attend four group sessions of 60-90 minutes duration and will complete one pre-intervention and two post-intervention behavioral assessments. The intervention sessions will focus on understanding the factors that lead to risky behaviors as well as developing the skills for safe behavior, positive social relationships, and safer life-plan options.

■ In September 2007 and continuing through September 2011, the National Institute for Nursing Research awarded NSU-COM and principal investigator Dr. M. Isabel Fernandez a four-year grant totaling \$1.55 million. The

grant, entitled **"Young Hispanic Men Entre Culturas: Navigating Culture, Identity, and HIV,"** was awarded for the purpose of identifying cultural, developmental, and personal factors associated with HIV risk and protection in YHMSM and developing and pilot-testing a sexual risk reduction intervention that can be delivered face-to-face and via the Internet. Participants will attend four individual sessions of 60-90 minutes duration and will complete one pre-intervention and two post-intervention behavioral assessments. The intervention sessions will use the techniques of motivational interviewing to create a behavior change plan that is based on each participant's specific life, cultural, and social circumstances and will help each participant develop the motivation and skills for safe behaviors. Dr. G. Stephen Bowen is serving as co-investigator, while staff members who will contribute to the success of the research include Dr. Robin Jacobs, Nilda Hernandez, Cesar DeFuentes, Luis Alzamora, Jacob Waldrup, and Cristobal Plaza.

■ OMS-III and research fellow Mete Akin served as senior author on a research paper entitled **"HIV Risk Behaviors of Immigrant MSM from Latin America and the Caribbean in Miami Florida"** that was published in *Revista Panamericana de Salud Publica/Pan American Journal of Public Health* in May 2008. Akin also carried out a secondary analysis of data collected in South Florida from Hispanic men living locally in relation to federal grant RO1-DA-16026 entitled **"HIV and Hispanic Men: Impact of Drugs and Culture."** This analysis was done in collaboration with Drs. Fernandez, Bowen, and Jacob C. Warren and led to the publication cited above. Akin, along with fellow OMS-III Katherine Quinones, were the first two D.O. students to participate in a new one-year predoctoral research fellowship program that was established by the college in 2006. Fellows are selected for the program by a competitive application process at the end of their second year as D.O. students and spend one full year learning the theory and practice of research. The fellows actively participate in research methods coursework as well as in ongoing research projects as part of a functioning funded research team within HPD or, with a faculty mentor, may design, obtain IRB approval for, and carry out their own research projects. Fellows receive tuition remission for the research fellowship year as well as their two subsequent years at the COM.

Neurology/ Psychiatry Club Goes to Jail



Pictured (from left) are Neuro/Psych Club officers Shira Anconina (secretary), Lisa Gronski (co-vice president), Pamela Schmidt (president), Jessie Cuello (co-vice president), and Tiffani Stroup (treasurer).

Every NSU-COM student organization has its share of similarities and differences. For example, each holds regular meetings, elects officers, and coordinates lectures and events that appeal to that particular club's members. Still, it's safe to say most clubs on campus don't have their members willingly spending time in jail.

To provide its membership with the most enlightening clinical experiences possible, the Neurology/Psychiatry (NP) Club recently established a collaborative program with the North Broward Bureau Corrections facility that allows its members to shadow a staff psychiatrist and get a bird's-eye view of what goes on behind the scenes in a maximum-security facility.

"I started the program after listening to Dr. David Thomas talk about correctional medicine," said OMS-II Jessica Cuello, who serves as co-vice president of the club. "At the time, I was looking for projects for both Neuro/Psych and the Rural Medicine Club, and this experience has been open to members of both clubs since its inception. I really wanted to represent the 'Psych' side of the NP Club, and as a past high school psychology teacher, my students did projects about the problem of mental illness and homelessness in South Florida. Many of the mentally ill end up on the streets with no medical care or support. Eventually, they are arrested for loitering, drug

possession, disorderly conduct, etc., and end up in our prison systems instead of mental health facilities.

"The goal was to bring medical students into the prison environment and expose them to correctional medicine and the reality of correctional institution management of psychiatric patients," Cuello added. "Dr. Thomas connected me with Dr. John May, chief medical officer of Armor Correctional Health Services, who then connected me with Dr. Mercy Gonzalez, who is a psychiatrist working at the North Broward Bureau Corrections facility. We shadowed Dr. Gonzalez for approximately three hours each visit and were able to facilitate eight visits throughout the year."

However, because all participating students needed to have government background checks performed before visiting the correctional facility, gaining swift security clearance provided the club with a significant hurdle in regard to developing the program further. As a result, the program will undergo some tweaking when it resumes during the upcoming academic year. "Next year, Dr. Gonzalez would like each student to shadow her for a minimum of three visits in an effort to create a 'mini rotation' as opposed to simply a jail tour," Cuello stated. "The ultimate hope is that several students interested in psychiatry or correctional medicine will be able to spend a few hours every other week for a semester shadowing Dr. Gonzalez. Other goals would include letting the visit count for IGC COM²Serve credit as well as adding more prison physicians to the program."

In addition to the jail experience, the club, which has approximately 120 members, provides insightful lectures and current information to students who are interested in the two specialty areas. One especially popular lecturer is Murray Todd, M.D., who serves as clinical professor of neurology and director of the North Broward Memory Disorder Center. "Dr. Todd, who is one of our main speakers, is great because he really engages the students during his talks," said OMS-II Pamela Schmidt, current president of the Neurology/Psychiatry Club. "Some of his lectures are really interactive because he'll discuss a case and actually act like the patient. We have to interview him, which is fun because he's really demonstrative—the students just love him."

The club, which also provides neuro-anatomy lecture reviews that are open to first-year medical and dental students, has reached new levels of achievement under Schmidt's guidance. But as she passes the torch of leadership on to the incoming president, Schmidt hopes to see the club realize two significant objectives. "I'd really like to see the correctional program become bigger and more organized," she said. "The other goal is to establish an affiliation with the national group called SIGN (Student Interest Group in Neurology), which is an offshoot of the American Academy of Neurology. If we can accomplish this, the affiliation will provide our members with even more information and knowledge about the neurology and psychiatry fields."



Dr. Morris at the 2006 HPD Commencement Ceremony with David Rush, who is a member of the HPD Board of Governors and the NSU Board of Trustees.

Osteopathic Profession Loses a Legend: Remembering Dr. Morton Morris

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

Editor's note: On Friday, May 2, 2008, NSU and the osteopathic profession lost a beloved figure when Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOAO, who served as executive dean for professional affairs of the Health Professions Division, passed away unexpectedly following kidney surgery.

Over the past nine years, I have had the unmitigated pleasure of working closely with Dr. Morris and his wonderful wife, Marie, on a range of projects. His sudden passing saddened me deeply because I had come to think of Dr. Morris as a treasured friend, advocate, and avuncular figure who always treated me as if I was a member of his family.

In the fall of 2000, I had the honor of interviewing Dr. Morris for a profile in COM Outlook, which is excerpted below. As you will

see as you read the following article, his trademark humor and unmistakable love for the osteopathic profession and his colleagues at NSU come shining through with supreme clarity.

Dr. Morton Morris is a man of many talents. He's a respected leader in the osteopathic field, an esteemed member of the HPD administration, a savvy legal eagle—and an innate humorist who possesses a rapier wit that rivals some of today's most trenchant comics.

"It all started when I was in my mother's womb." That was Dr. Morris' mirthful reply when he was asked to recount the moment he first realized he wanted to pursue a career as a physician. "I was always interested in medicine and can never recall wanting to do anything else." In fact, his

eagerness to pursue a medical career was so potent that he accelerated through high school in 11 years instead of the requisite 12. "I think they just wanted to get me out of their hair as quickly as possible," remarked Dr. Morris in typical self-deprecating fashion.

The origins of his osteopathic inclination can be traced back to his days in Wilmington, Delaware, where Dr. Morris spent his formative years interacting with a number of osteopathic advocates. "One of my relatives was an osteopathic physician, and he was extremely influential in my decision to pursue a similar vocation," he explained. "I also had a very close friend who was an optometrist, and he helped convince me that attending an osteopathic school would be in my best interest."

After earning his premedical degree in physical chemistry from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dr. Morris relocated to Missouri in 1952 to attend Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. Following graduation in 1956, with his focus firmly on the future, Dr. Morris dusted off his suitcase once again to perform his internship at Flint Osteopathic Hospital in Michigan. "My original plan was to complete my internship and then pursue a residency in internal medicine because I'd always thought I wanted to be a cardiologist," said Dr. Morris, who drove a cab, vaccinated chickens, and worked as a chemist to earn extra money during his educational forays. "However, I couldn't afford to take a residency because it only paid \$75 a month. So I decided to return to the East Coast and establish a family practice in Swedesboro, New Jersey."

It would prove to be a judicious decision. During the next five years, the small town of Swedesboro introduced Dr. Morris to the rigors and rewards of practicing osteopathic medicine. It also served as the setting where Dr. Morris would meet a sassy Sicilian named Marie who would soon become his wife. "During that time I had a very busy and trauma-related practice since it was a farming type of community," he explained. "I also had become very interested in orthopedic surgery, and since my practice was so oriented in trauma, I decided on orthopedic surgery. I had developed close friendships with some orthopedic surgeons in the area, so I decided



A young (and slender) Dr. Morris.



A bright future beckons.



With the love of his life—Marie.



A smile that warmed many.



Scott Colton with Dr. Morris.

to apply for a residency at Metropolitan Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania."

In 1963, Dr. Morris took a one-week break from his orthopedic residency to vacation on the balmy Miami Beach coast. Within days, he would soon be hailed as a hero for preventing the drowning death of a young boy. "I was sitting at the pool one afternoon when I suddenly saw a child floating in the water," he recalled. "After we pulled him from the water, I performed CPR on him. It was actually a bit humorous because the medical profession had just switched from artificial respiration to CPR, and nobody knew what CPR was. With artificial respiration, the victim lays prone; in CPR, the person is supine, with the head up. Everybody was yelling and saying 'You're killing the kid, turn him over, do it right.' Of course the kid pulled through, and I kept getting thank-you notes from his mother for about 20 years."

After completing his orthopedic residency in 1965, Dr. Morris spent the next few years practicing in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. However, despite the growing success he was experiencing in his career, something was lacking. "In the back of my mind, I'd always wanted to go to law school. In fact, when I made the decision to go into orthopedic surgery, I had also debated about whether to go to law school or buy a liquor store with a friend," he said. "I always had an interest in law and medicine and the relationship between the two because I did a lot of worker's compensation cases during my family practice group. In retrospect, I think I should have bought the liquor store since my friend sold it 20 years later for a nice sum of money that enabled him to retire at an early age."

In 1967, Dr. Morris was offered opportunities to relocate to either Tucson, Arizona, or North Miami Beach, Florida. After mulling his options, he opted to embrace a new lifestyle and join the orthopedic practice of B. Boyce Swartz, D.O., at Osteopathic General Hospital in North Miami Beach — the forerunner for what is now known as NSU-COM. "When I came to South Florida, I established a residency program in orthopedic surgery at Osteopathic General. I also worked out of two offices in North Miami Beach and Pembroke Park and serviced hospitals from Pompano Beach to South Miami."

Although his stature in the osteopathic medical community continued to expand, Dr. Morris still harbored an unyielding desire to achieve a law degree. So in 1978, at the age of 47, he began pursuing his dream at the University of Miami School of Law. "It was very intense, but it was harder on Marie than it was on me," admitted Dr. Morris, who made the Dean's List in 1980. "I attended law school during the day and tended to the medical practice at night and on alternate weekends." By committing himself to an accelerated schedule, Dr. Morris completed the law program in less than three years and graduated in January 1981. A few months later, on his 50th birthday, Dr. Morris took and passed the Florida Bar exam on his first attempt. To his knowledge, he was the only osteopathic physician in the country to hold a J.D. degree in association with the D.O. appellation at that time.

In May 1981, he launched a legal practice that primarily specialized in health law and defense malpractice. "I represented physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals before licensing boards and represented them with Medicare, Medicaid, and other contractual claims," said Dr. Morris, who is the proud father of son Jay, a computer programmer for Florida Power and Light, and daughter Judy, a physician. Balancing dual careers in medicine and law may have presented intrinsic challenges for Dr. Morris,

professional résumé by becoming executive director of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics. Additionally, Dr. Morris maintained a perpetual link with the College of Osteopathic Medicine by teaching courses in medical jurisprudence and orthopedics since the institution accepted its first class in 1981.

In 1994, Dr. Morris was approached by Dr. Terry to join the HPD administration on a part-time basis in the position of continuing medical education director. Two years later, he rose to full-time status, assuming the title of vice chancellor for academic affairs, which he maintained until October 1997 when he was elevated to the position of vice chancellor and deputy provost. Because he is well versed in a range of areas, Dr. Morris' responsibilities are as diverse as his talents.

"No day is the same," said Dr. Morris, who served as president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association in 1978-79. "I oversee the computerization of NSU's Health Professions Division and serve as faculty advisor to some of the student activities such as the Student Osteopathic Surgical Association and the student district of FOMA.

Additionally, Dr. Morris is responsible for regulating all HPD continuing medical education activities and assisting each college's administration to ensure the quality, effectiveness, and success of each activity. He acts as the coordinator for

"I enjoy working at NSU's Health Professions Division for a variety of reasons, but my favorite aspect is working with the students," said Dr. Morris. "I've always had an interest in education. That's why I was involved in the residency program and training orthopedic residents at Osteopathic General Hospital. In fact, when I had my law practice, I used to have medical students rotate through my office when the osteopathic college first opened up."

but his passion for both professions continually overrode any underlying concerns. "If you asked me to pick between law and medicine, I could not choose between the two because my legal practice was so integrally entwined in medicine. I loved being in the operating room, but I also loved courtroom and legal work."

Through his affiliation with Osteopathic General Hospital, Dr. Morris struck up a friendship with Morton Terry, D.O. Consequently, when Dr. Terry was engaged in initial talks to launch Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine in the late 1970s, Dr. Morris was elected to the inaugural board of directors and has served as board secretary ever since.

Over the next 15 years, Dr. Morris continued to successfully navigate his way through the osteopathic and legal professions. He has become a pivotal figure within the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA), serving on numerous committees, including continuing medical education, long-range planning, constitution and bylaws, and osteopathic postgraduate training institute implementation. In 1991, he added another notch to his

HPD compliance regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act and serves on the Research and Planning Committee. Dr. Morris also played an integral role in securing full Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) status for the Health Professions Division—a designation reserved for those institutions that maintain high standards in continuing medical education.

"I enjoy working at NSU's Health Professions Division for a variety of reasons, but my favorite aspect is working with the students," said Dr. Morris. "I've always had an interest in education. That's why I was involved in the residency program and training orthopedic residents at Osteopathic General Hospital. In fact, when I had my law practice, I used to have medical students rotate through my office when the osteopathic college first opened up."

After over 40 years of achievement in the medical and legal professions, Dr. Morris still has no desire to slow down or contemplate retirement. "Why should a person give up activities he enjoys?" asked Dr. Morris. "I love my wife, my kids, my home, and my work. Who could ask for more than that?"

Dr. Morton Morris:

Achievements and Accolades

Throughout his dual careers in law and osteopathic medicine, Dr. Morris amassed a laudatory list of achievements during his 77 years. Following are just some of the notable accomplishments he achieved—and the accolades he received—during his lifetime:

- Served as executive director of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
- Received 1982 Distinguished Service Award from Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
- Appointed by former Governor Lawton Chiles to serve on Florida Advisory Council on Diabetes
- Appointed by the Florida Department of Health to serve on the Florida Advisory Telemedicine Task Force
- Served as president of the Dade County Osteopathic Association in 1971-72
- Received 1989, 2000, 2005, and 2007 Knotty Cane Award from AOA
- Served as a member of the House of Delegates to the American Osteopathic Association since 1978
- Served as president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association in 1978-79
- Co-founded Dade-Monroe Professional Review Organization
- Served as general counsel to the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
- Appointed by Governor Chiles to serve on the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Board
- Instituted action against Blue Cross Blue Shield and successfully demonstrated proof that the organization was discriminating against osteopathic physicians
- Co-founded Florida Osteopathic Insurance Trust
- Served on the Broward County Bar Grievance Committee
- Received Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association in 2000
- Received Appreciative Award from American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics in 1997 and 1998
- Served as chairman of the Council of Continuing Medical Education for the American Osteopathic Association
- Received Donald Siehl Award from the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics in 2001
- Received the Orel F. Martin Award from the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons in 2004
- Received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Osteopathic Association in 2005

Following his death, the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine unanimously voted to create an award in Dr. Morris' honor. The Morton J. Morris, D.O., J.D. Board of Osteopathic Medicine Award will be bestowed at least annually upon an osteopathic physician who exemplifies the professionalism, ethics, and dedication to osteopathic medicine and health care regulation.

Heartfelt Tributes from Friends, Family, and Colleagues

Marie Morris – Loving Wife

“My standard saying about our relationship was that Mort always put the profession first before me. When Mort felt something would benefit the osteopathic profession, he would put his all into accomplishing it. I would tell him that he was always crusading for a cause. His answer to that was he felt he had to do what was right for the benefit of the profession, especially his beloved academy.

On a more personal note, Mort was a devoted husband, father, and family person. When we first started our holiday dinner tradition, we would invite friends since neither one of us had any family in town at the time. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, there always seemed to be one couple we had over for Thanksgiving that would be divorced by the next year. So began Mort’s favorite toast at Thanksgiving, where he would tell the guests at the table how every year one couple at the table would be divorced by the following year.

At Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Mort was the pied piper to the students. He was mentor, father, and teacher all rolled into one. He would tell his students on the first day of medical jurisprudence class that, ‘I’m here to teach you, not to win a popularity contest.’ He enjoyed his work immensely and always stated that retirement was not for him. I guess you can say Mort went out on his terms as he never retired.

I can truly say we were soul mates who were always there for each other. On our last wedding anniversary, we gave each other the same card. Mort had purchased his in Aventura and I bought mine in Fort Lauderdale. Sometimes I felt we could read each other’s minds as we always knew what the other one wanted. Mort wasn’t only my husband—he was my boss, my mentor, my companion. He was my rock as well as my lover and best friend. I will miss him greatly.”

Christopher Beiser, OMS-II

“Dr. Morris will be deeply missed, but always remembered. He was a man who devoted himself unselfishly to his family and his profession day in and day out. I had the pleasure and the privilege of getting to know Dr. Morris, and I can truly say that on May 2, 2008, his family, the D.O. profession, and the world lost a great man.”

Stephen Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., Associate Dean for Community Affairs/AHEC Program Director

“Having worked with and known Dr. Morris for over two decades since the early days of SECOM and Southeastern University in the mid-1980s, I have many great memories of him, most centering around his very sharp wit and his uncanny ability to win debates without using much airtime. My fondest memory of all was a day many years ago when Morty first told me he was both a practicing surgeon and a practicing attorney. Morty’s eyes sparkled with joy and laughter when I then told him that probably made him the very first person I had ever met who could actually sue himself. I will never forget that unique gleam in his eyes and his wonderful cheek-grinning smile on that day and on so many others. I’ll miss him forever.”

Robert Oller, D.O. CEO of the NSU Health Care Centers

“We have lost an icon of our profession. In my 37 years in South Florida, Morty has always been my mentor, my confidante, and a good friend I could always look to for direction both personally and professionally. My wife Ronnie and I miss him every day. He was an icon in our profession who developed the foundations of respect and leadership. I only hope that future osteopathic physicians will remember individuals like Mort Morris who built the steps on which we follow.”

James Howell, M.D., M.P.H. Chair of the Department of Rural Medicine

“I have known Dr. Morris for several decades and have always valued his wisdom, knowledge, and personal friendship. Being an M.D., I am well aware of the well-placed pride and respect that Dr. Morris has within the osteopathic profession. However, I would also like to state that as an allopathic physician, the respect he elicited from my professional colleagues was admirable. Two areas of note are the Broward County Medical Association and the Florida Board of Medicine. Many local doctors are saddened by Dr. Morris’ untimely passing. Having worked closely with the Florida Department of Health Board of Medicine, I can also reiterate that both as an attorney and a physician, he was well respected by the board and its staff and considered a professional colleague and friend.”

Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc., FACOP, FAMWA **Founding Dean of SECOM**

"If Mort had any idiosyncrasy, you could say it was catsup—on anything, on everything. None of his friends was ever surprised at his request for a bottle of catsup for whatever he happened to be eating. One evening, we were dining at a nationally renowned steakhouse in Tampa, and he asked the waiter for some catsup—a no-no in most fancy steakhouses. With a strange look on his face, the waiter headed to the kitchen. After waiting for the return of the long-overdue waiter, Mort stopped another waiter and told him of his request and his plight. After another long delay, the original waiter reappeared with a bottle of catsup in his hand—a brand new, unopened bottle. Obviously, the restaurant had sent someone out to purchase the catsup. But that wasn't the end of it. Apparently he had insulted the chef, for on our departure, the waiter reappeared and presented Mort with a small, aluminum-foil wrapped package. It contained the bottle of catsup.

I first met Mort Morris in Philadelphia when he was training in orthopedic surgery. My next encounter with him, many years later, was when the SECOM Board of Trustees voted to engage me as the founding dean. Mort was the first one, immediately after the vote, to take me aside and offer words of encouragement and advice—something he continued to do throughout our relationship.

Mort never seemed to brag about any of his many accomplishments. But with me, he bragged frequently that he was responsible for my finally learning to use a computer (which I had intensely resisted for so long). And he was right. He continued until the last moment to be my computer guru—and guru he was, for he had spent a full year intensively learning computers. On the day before he entered the hospital, I called to bother him about a small computer problem. He gave me good advice, as usual, and that was the very last time I spoke with him. What irony!

To me, Mort was identified by three attributes in everything he engaged in or represented. First was TRUTHFULNESS—he never let guile or dishonesty enter any of the projects he was involved in. Second was LOYALTY—he gave 150 percent of himself—and expected it of others. Third was DEDICATION. Just as loyal and truthful as he was, he was equally dedicated in all his efforts—and demanded that from those around him.

TRUTHFULNESS, LOYALTY, and DEDICATION—those are the attributes that best define Morton Morris...physician, orthopedic surgeon, humanist, educator, and friend."

Howard Neer, D.O., FACOPF **Associate Dean of Alumni Affairs**

"I knew Dr. Morris for over 40 years and began seeing him frequently at various association meetings, principally the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Trustees committees and board meetings about 35 years ago. He was very concerned and actively participated in the considerations of all the many issues the profession faced—especially the enormous problems associated with osteopathic discrimination during its early years. Dr. Morris always had an opinion about an issue and was quick to express and articulately explain it. We all felt free to openly discuss, support, disagree, or agree with all of the many considerations. Morty occasionally would get a little excited about a subject but was always a gentleman and a true professional. After the meetings were over, we were all one big family, and Morty would tell us the name of the restaurant where we were going to have dinner. No matter what city we were in, he knew where to find the best food.

As we all know, Morty was fond of food. Like former President George Herbert Walker Bush, he intensely disliked broccoli. At one restaurant, the entrée plate came with broccoli as one of the vegetables, so he made the waiter take it back, remove the broccoli, and place the rest of the food on a clean plate. A couple of months later when we were dining at an upscale restaurant, we arranged it so that when the waiters arrived to remove the covers off our plates, Morty's would have nothing but a huge plate full of broccoli. Everybody, including Morty, had a good laugh. He served on countless committees of the various associations he was involved with. In fact, Morty was the shepherd caring for the flock. He would guide the members through the technical aspects of rules, laws, and regulations, molding their thinking process and subtly shaping the future. This profession will miss him, and I will miss him, but we will all have the fond memories of a great man."

Karl M. Altenburger, M.D. **President of the Florida Medical Association**

"The FMA is deeply saddened by the recent passing of one of Nova Southeastern University's most respected leaders—Morton Morris, D.O., J.D. As a past president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) and FOMA's general counsel for many years, Dr. Morris participated in numerous meetings with the leadership of the FMA and FOMA on pressing issues that continue to confront our physician members and the patients we serve. He worked closely with us on all our initiatives to enact meaningful tort reform in Florida and other significant measures we jointly advocated with FOMA on behalf of quality patient care and improved public health."

Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Executive Committee/Trustees/Members/Staff

"The Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) joins in mourning the passing of Morton J. Morris, D.O., J.D. He was an outstanding physician, mentor, and educator. Dr. Morris served as FOMA president in 1978-79 and then as general counsel for the FOMA for the last 24 years. In this role, he counseled members on medical malpractice defense, administrative law, licensure issues, and health law cases. He was always advocating ways to improve public policy and ensure that all Floridians receive affordable, quality health care. He also helped establish the FOMA Student District Society at NSU-COM, which enables students to become involved in FOMA trustee meetings and Osteopathic Medicine Day at the Capitol. Dr. Morris touched the lives of many people, and we miss him dearly. His passion for the osteopathic profession will be instilled in our hearts, and we thank him for the great wisdom he brought to all of us who knew him."

Christopher Siano, D.O., M.P.H. 2003 NSU-COM alumnus

"When I first met Dr. Morris almost 10 years ago as a first-year medical student, I was a bit afraid, as were many of my peers. But I soon realized he was just a big teddy bear. He introduced me to FOMA, medical jurisprudence, and life. As we came to know each other better, we discovered we had much in common—including our love for life, medicine, and ketchup.

He became my mentor and friend as he adopted me, and I adopted him. He guided my career and helped teach me some important life lessons. As I started residency, he told me the following things: to work hard, to be good to my wife—and to keep it in my pants. He also taught me to respect people and be humble, which for those who know me is sometimes hard.

He was taken so prematurely, which is sad because he had so much more to give, to teach. As a pediatric ER doctor, I sometimes fight God daily to save a child's life. I only wish I could have been there to battle for my friend's life.

God obviously has plans for my dear friend, but I bet only now does God realize what he has gotten himself into. Perhaps God has met his match in Morty, who was not only a healer but also a lawyer.

I think Morty is going to give God a run for his money, and when their first debate comes around—and it will—all my money is on Morty."

Anna Hayden, D.O., President Florida Osteopathic Medical Association

"From his extended family, colleagues, and friends at the FOMA, we express our condolences to Marie, Jay, and family. Dr. Morris did so much to advance osteopathic medicine and GME here in Broward County, in Florida, and nationally by his many years of service on various committees.

Personally, I have known Dr. Morris for 20 years. I was his travel buddy, and he always sat next to me at our meetings. We shared many hours together at airports especially with delays. Prior to departure, he would call Marie, and immediately upon landing, he called Marie. They were truly a 'connected couple.' When Marie was hurting, so was he. I would promise not to let Marie know what he ate for lunch as he always searched for the hot dog vendor area at the airports. I was glad to have the opportunity to see him prior to his unexpected death.

I knew something was wrong when he did not attend Osteopathic Medicine Day in Tallahassee and was unable to come to the Bureau of Federal Healthcare meeting. He never missed a meeting. We will miss him dearly as we all share a loss here as a friend, colleague, and member of the osteopathic family. His years of dedication and accomplishments to the osteopathic profession will linger on."

Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG Director of the NSU Women's Health Center

"Early in my medical school training, I realized I loved studying the legal aspects of medicine. My first professor of medical jurisprudence and 20-year mentor and friend was, of course, Dr. Morton Morris. During one of my jurisprudence classes with Dr. Morris, I realized I wanted to see the real thing, so I asked Dr. Morris if I could do an elective in legal medicine in his private office. Dr. Morris agreed, and I completed a one-month elective in medical jurisprudence with him and his loving wife, Marie. Needless to say, the month was awesome!

Dr. Morris and Marie spent countless hours with me teaching me everything I would ever need to know about legal medicine. I even worked side by side with Dr. Morris and his legal partner on a case dealing with orthopedics. Best of all, Dr. Morris would always buy lunch for all of us in the office—and I was always the courier to Hot Dog World.

Later in my career, Dr. Morris had an open-door policy for personal assistance in legal issues at NSU. His friendship and kindness will never be forgotten."

Graduation 2008



Senior Week Activities Celebrate Success

A sense of celebration was in evidence during Senior Week, which provided a multitude of opportunities for the class of 2008 to get reacquainted while participating in a range of fun-filled activities that included a golf tournament, an evening of exotic dining at the renowned Mai Kai restaurant in Fort Lauderdale, and a festive awards banquet at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa in Hollywood. The week culminated on Sunday, May 25 when 211 D.O. and 40 M.P.H. degrees were conferred during the NSU Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony at the Bank Atlantic Center in Sunrise. During the ceremony, hundreds of other proud HPD graduates received their long-awaited diplomas from NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., and HPD Chancellor Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., in front of an enthusiastic audience filled with family, friends, and faculty members. Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H., who serves as surgeon general of the Florida Department of Health, delivered the commencement address.

Graduation 2008: Senior Awards Ceremony



Chancellor's Award – Osteopathic Medicine

Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine osteopathic physician—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession.

Recipient: **Olphabine Athouriste, D.O.**

Presenter: Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.



Dean's Award – Osteopathic Medicine

Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program.

Recipient: **Lynda Goldberg, D.O.**

Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc.



Morton & Geraldine Terry Internal Medicine Award

Presented to the student for the highest achievement in the study of internal medicine, both academic and clinical.

Recipient: **Jennifer Lamneck, D.O., M.P.H.**

Presenter: Samuel Snyder, D.O.



Matthew A. Terry, D.O., Memorial Award

Presented to the student chosen by his or her peers as the exemplary osteopathic medical student.

Recipient: **Robert Cambridge, D.O., M.P.H.**

Presenter: Lawrence Jacobson, D.O.

Graduation 2008: Senior Awards Ceremony



Chancellor's Award – M.P.H. Program

Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine public health professional—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession.

Recipient: **Renee Alexis, M.D., M.P.H.**

Presenter: Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.



A. Alvin Greber, D.O., Cardiology Award

Presented to the student demonstrating outstanding aptitude academically with recognized clinical application of that knowledge in patients with cardiovascular disease.

Recipient: **Richard Goldberg, D.O.**

Presenter: Samuel Snyder, D.O.



Dean's Award – M.S.B.I. Program

Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement in the Master of Biomedical Informatics Program.

Recipient: **Sasha Lawrence, Pharm.D., M.S.B.I.**

Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc.



Alumni Association Award

Presented to the student who, by his/her leadership, has done the most to maintain the cohesiveness, unity, and esprit de corps within his/her class for all four years.

Recipient: **Robert Cambridge, D.O., M.P.H.**

Presenter: Howard Neer, D.O.

Graduation 2008: Senior Awards Ceremony



Dean's Community Award

Awarded to that member of the graduating class who, by personal and professional conduct, and by contributions to the student affairs and the general program of NSU-COM, has been deemed worthy of special recognition.

Recipient: **Julie Matar, D.O.**

Presenter: Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H.



Dean's Organizational Award

Presented to the senior who demonstrated organizational skills and leadership and received recognition from his/her peers during a productive academic career.

Recipient: **Robert Cambridge, D.O., M.P.H.**

Presenter: Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D., M.A.



Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award

Presented to the graduate who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in emergency medicine.

Recipient: **John Reynolds, D.O.**

Presenter: Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., M.P.H.



Clinical Service Award

Presented to the student judged to be outstanding in clinical service.

Recipient: **Kevin Christian, D.O.**

Presenter: Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed

Graduation 2008: Senior Awards Ceremony



Geriatrics Award

This award, which is presented by the Department of Geriatrics and sponsored by the Florida Geriatrics Society, honors a student who has excelled in his/her geriatrics rotation.

Recipient: **Meena Makhijani, D.O.**
Presenter: Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD



Public Health

Student Service Award

Presented to the student who demonstrated commitment to community service.

Recipient: **William McCoy, D.O., M.P.H.**
Presenter: Alina Perez, J.D., M.S.W.



Research Award – Osteopathic Medicine

Presented to a member of the graduating class who performed student research at a level worthy of recognition among peers and faculty.

Recipient: **Amrita Mukherjee, D.O.**
Presenter: Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.



Research Award – Public Health

Presented to a member of the graduating class who performed student research at a level worthy of recognition among peers and faculty.

Recipient: **Mete Akin, M.P.H.**
Presenter: Gabriel Suciu, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

Graduation 2008: Senior Awards Ceremony



Outstanding Student in the Study of Pediatrics

Presented to the outstanding student in the study of pediatrics who is in the upper quarter of his or her class in rank and honors grades in pediatric ambulatory and hospital rotations as well as at least one elective in a pediatric area with an honor grade.

Recipient: **Lyssa Edmunds, D.O., M.P.H.**
Presenter: Edward Packer, D.O.



Florida Chapter, American Academy of Osteopathy Award in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

Presented to the student who, in the opinion of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, has achieved the highest proficiency in osteopathic therapeutics.

Recipient: **Lauren Abratt, D.O.**
Presenter: David Boesler, D.O., M.S.



Government and Public Policy Award

Presented to that member of the graduating class who has shown a unique interest in developing an understanding of governmental and public health care policies and procedures.

Recipient: **Kathryn Rooth, D.O.**
Presenter: James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.



Albert L. Weiner, D.O., Memorial Psychiatry Award

Presented in memory of Dr. Weiner to the student achieving the greatest proficiency in psychiatry.

Recipient: **Adam Trenton, D.O.**
Presenter: Daniel Shaw, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.Ed.

Graduation 2008: Senior Awards Ceremony



Golden Apple Award (Public Health)

Presented by the class of 2008 to an M.P.H. faculty member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

Recipient: **Alina Perez, J.D., M.S.W.**
Presenter: Aaron Fox, M.P.H.



Outstanding Student in Pediatric Service

Awarded to a student in the upper third of class in rank who actively organized and participated in at least three children's projects during his or her time at NSU-COM and considered by students and faculty to have motivated children-related projects at NSU-COM.

Recipient: **Dallas McKay, D.O.**
Presenter: Edward Packer, D.O.



National Health Service Corps Certificates

Presented to class of 2008 students who will be working with the NHSC to provide primary care to underserved areas.

Recipients: **Kalli Morikis, D.O., and Viet Nguyen, D.O.**
Presenter: Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.



Samuel J. Salman, D.O., Award in Family Medicine

Presented by the FSACOF to the student whose scholarship, patient empathy, dedication, concern, and goals epitomize the osteopathic family physician.

Recipient: **Ana-Lugo-Lopez, D.O.**
Presenter: Ralph Wood, D.O.

Graduation 2008: Senior Awards Ceremony



Morton and Mary Smith Achievement Award

Presented to the student exhibiting the highest quality of service and leadership, combined with scholarship, integrity, and personal worth.

Recipient: **Ashley Chapman, D.O.**
Presenter: Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed.



Daniel R. Barkus Outstanding Achievement in the Study of OB/GYN

Presented to the student who ranks in the top 25 percent of the class, is pursuing residency training in OB/GYN, and has obtained the highest academic grade in his/her class in the women's health course.

Recipient: **Allison Bloom, D.O., M.P.H.**
Presenter: Daniel Barkus, D.O.



Donna Jones Moritsugu Award

Presented to the spouse of a graduating student who best exemplifies the role of a professional's partner in being an individual in his or her own right while being supportive of mate, family, and the profession.

Recipient: **Laura Cambridge**
Presenter: Albert Whitehead, D.M.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.



Rose Community Service Award

Presented to the student who demonstrated sincere interest in community service or community projects.

Recipient: **Matthew Irwin, D.O.**
Presenter: Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.

Graduation 2008: Senior Awards Ceremony



Golden Apple Award (Osteopathic Medicine)

Presented by the class of 2008 to a faculty or staff member deemed most outstanding by the graduating class.

Recipients: **Robert Hasty, D.O., and Leslie Jones**
Presenters: Robert Cambridge, D.O., M.P.H.,
and Ashley Chapman, D.O.



Florida Obstetric and Gynecologic Society Outstanding Achievement in the Service of OB/GYN

Presented to the graduating student who ranks in the top 50 percent of the class, has demonstrated his/her intention of pursuing residency training in OB/GYN, and has effectively organized and participated in the greatest number and variety of activities related to the field of women's health.

Recipient: **Kristin Garton, D.O., M.P.H.**
Presenters: Daniel Barkus, D.O.

Dean's Award – M.P.H. Program

Mary Ann Cabrera, M.P.H., who graduated with the highest scholastic achievement in the M.P.H. Program, was not present to accept her award.



Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellowship Certificates

Presented to students who have completed a predoctoral clinical and teaching fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice from July 2005 to May 2008.

Recipients

**Lauren Abratt, D.O., Allison Bloom, D.O., M.P.H.,
Kari Bradham, D.O., Sean Goddard, D.O.,
Melchiorra Mangiaracina, D.O., and
Lena Weinman, D.O.**

Presenter

David Boesler, D.O.

Outstanding Senior Awards

Recipients demonstrated outstanding academic performance that has qualified them for recognition as graduates with highest honors (top three percent of their class) and graduates with honors (top seven percent of their class).

Osteopathic Recipients of Highest Honors Certificates

**Ahsan Achtchi, D.O., Allison Bloom, D.O., M.P.H.,
Lynda Goldberg, D.O., Jarod Goodrich, D.O.,
Jennifer Lamneck, D.O., M.P.H., and Mary Leveritt, D.O.**

Osteopathic Recipients of Honors Certificates

**Kevin Christian, D.O., Francisco Delgado, D.O., Sean Duffy,
D.O., Richard Goldberg, D.O., Kerri-Ann Hew, D.O., Lynda
Humaran, D.O., Allison Hutson, D.O., Nicole Lang, D.O.,
M.P.H., Emily Matthews, D.O., Viet Nguyen, D.O., Penelope
Paredes, D.O., Kathryn Rooth, D.O., Andrew Schluskel, D.O.,
Eric Shoemaker, D.O., and Anton Zaryanov, D.O.**

Public Health Recipient of Highest Honors Certificate

Mary Ann Cabrera, M.P.H.

Public Health Recipients of Honors Certificates

**Renee Alexis, M.D., M.P.H.
Sherman Jew, M.P.H.**

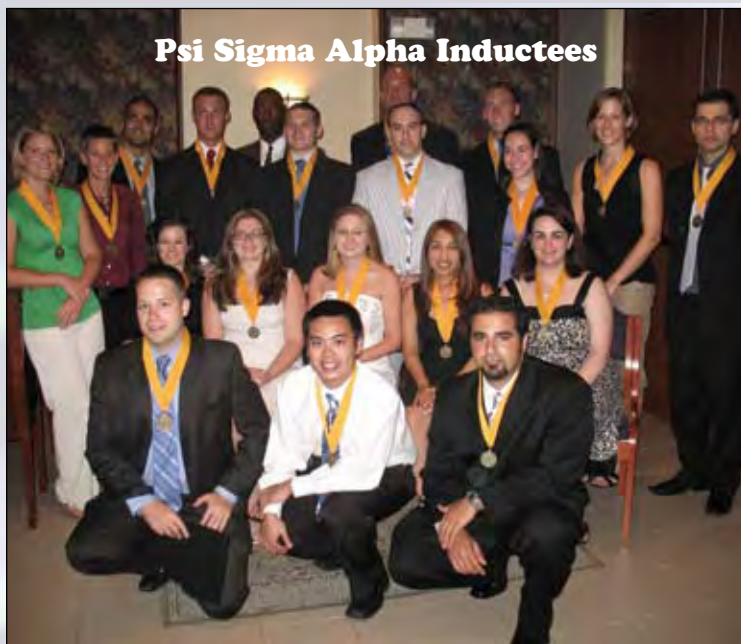
Graduation 2008: Senior Awards Ceremony

Sigma Sigma Phi Membership



Sigma Sigma Phi is a national honorary osteopathic service fraternity whose main objectives include furthering the science of osteopathic medicine and its standards of practice as well as promoting a higher degree of fellowship among its students. To earn membership consideration, Sigma Sigma Phi members are required to have a minimum grade point average of 80 percent; however, selection is based primarily upon service and leadership in the osteopathic community. Following are the individuals who earned membership in NSU-COM's Sigma Sigma Phi chapter: *Latifa Akande, D.O., Olphabine Athouriste, D.O., Cynthia Benson, D.O., M.P.H., Allison Bloom, D.O., M.P.H., Leslie Bridges, D.O., Robert Cambridge, D.O., M.P.H., Ashley Chapman, D.O., Nicole Coleman, D.O., Caecilia Garcia-Perez, D.O., Aditi Gupta, D.O., Melissa Hartman, D.O., Stacey Helps, D.O., Ericka Hersh, D.O., M.P.H., Matthew Irwin, D.O., Jennifer Lamneck, D.O., M.P.H., Sarah LaRosa, D.O., Gayatri Menon, D.O., M.P.H., Kathryn Rooth, D.O., Lisa Rubiano, D.O., Andrew Schlussel, D.O., and Nick Zilieris, D.O.*

Psi Sigma Alpha Inductees



Membership in the **Theta Chapter of the Psi Sigma Alpha National Osteopathic Scholastic Honor Society** is based on laudable traits such as academic achievement (placing in the top 15 percent of their class), high moral character, and integrity. Listed to the right are the individuals who earned entry into the Psi Sigma Alpha Honor Society:

Commissioning Ceremony



The **Commissioning Ceremony**, which was established in 2005 to honor and showcase support for graduates who will be doing medical tours of duty in the armed services, is held annually to facilitate the promotion of these young officers from the rank of second lieutenant (army and air force) or ensign (navy) to the rank of captain (army/air force) or lieutenant (navy). These young men and women have attended NSU-COM via the armed services Health Professions Scholarship Program. The graduates have committed to serve in the armed forces of the United States for a minimum of eight years as part of their scholarship obligation. This year's ceremony was presided over by Colonel Ron Renuart, D.O.—an NSU-COM alumnus who has served in the U.S. Army National Guard for over 20 years. Following are the 25 graduates who were recognized at the ceremony:

United States Army

Captain Scott Ryan Bunker, D.O., Captain Sean Duffy, D.O., Captain Brandon Isaac Gardner, D.O., Captain Megan Hanson, D.O., Captain Uma Elizabeth Ramadorai, D.O., Captain Kevin Dale Rowley, D.O., Captain Laura Rubinate, D.O., Captain Andrew Todd Schlussel, D.O., Captain Omar Shami, D.O., M.P.H., and Captain Wayne O. Wolverton, D.O.

United States Navy

Lieutenant Michael Anthony Colonna, D.O., Lieutenant Lauren Beth Giglia, D.O., Lieutenant Jarod Goodrich, D.O., Lieutenant Laura Habelow, D.O., Lieutenant Richard Ulf David Hedelius, D.O., Lieutenant Shannon Lynne Hillier, D.O., Lieutenant Matthew Scott Irwin, D.O., Lieutenant David Ryan Lamborn, D.O., Lieutenant Jaime Lyn Longobardi, D.O., and Lieutenant Karl Nadolsky, D.O.

United States Air Force

Captain Kristen Linnea Bickle, D.O., Captain Robert (Bob) Cambridge, Jr., D.O., M.P.H., Captain John Michael Hatfield, D.O., Captain Emily Mika Nakagawa, D.O., M.P.H., and Captain Tiffany Simpson, D.O.

Ahsan Achtchi, D.O., Allison Bloom, D.O., M.P.H., Kevin Christian, D.O., Francisco Delgado, D.O., Sean Duffy, D.O., Lynda Goldberg, D.O., Richard Goldberg, D.O., Jarod Goodrich, D.O., Kerri-Ann Hew, D.O., Lynda Humanan, D.O., Allison Hutson, D.O., Jennifer Lamneck, D.O., M.P.H., Nicole Lang, D.O., M.P.H., Mary Leveritt, D.O., Emily Matthews, D.O., Viet Nguyen, D.O., Penelope Paredes, D.O., Kathryn Rooth, D.O., Andrew Schlussel, D.O., Eric Shoemaker, D.O., and Anton Zaryanov, D.O.

NSU-COM Alumni Association Executive Committee

Past Presidents

Pre 1995 - Holly Pomeranz, D.O. ('86)
 1996 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)
 1997 - Orlando Garcia, D.O. ('94)
 1998 - Michael Gervasi, D.O. ('87)
 1999 - Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('94)
 2000 - John Geake, D.O. ('93)
 2001 - Isidro Pujol, D.O. ('94)
 2002 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)
 2003 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
 2004 - Kenneth Johnson, D.O. ('91)
 2005 - Steven Cimerberg, D.O. ('87)
 2006 - Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90)
 2007 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)

Trustees at Large

Annette Da Silva, D.O. ('96)
 Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('87)
 Mayrene Hernandez, D.O. ('01)
 Stephen MacDonald, D.O. ('90)
 Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
 William Stager, D.O. ('89)

2008-2009 Officers

Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86)
 President

Ronald Tolchin, D.O. ('89)
 President Elect

Daniel Carney, D.O. ('95)
 Vice President

Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O. ('94)
 Secretary

Andrew Gross, D.O. ('93)
 Treasurer

Gregory James, D.O. ('88)
 Immediate Past President

Howard L. Neer, D.O.
 Associate Dean, Alumni Affairs

Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.
 Director, Alumni Affairs

Living Tribute Honorees

2002 - Mary Smith Allegro
 2003 - Arthur Snyder, D.O.
 2004 - Lori Dribin, Ph.D.
 2005 - Edye Groseclose, Ph.D.
 2006 - Howard Hada, Ph.D.
 2008 - Cyril Blavo, D.O.

Distinguished Service

2007 - Mary Smith Allegro

Celebration of Excellence

Distinguished Alumni

1999 - Archie McLean, D.O. ('88)
 2000 - James Turner, D.O. ('88)
 2001 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)
 2003 - Joel Rush, D.O. ('85)
 2004 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)
 2005 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)
 2006 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)
 2007 - Ross Zafonte, D.O. ('85)
 2008 - Majdi Ashchi, D.O. ('89)

Alumni in the News

Steven Cimerberg, D.O., FACOF ('87) was awarded the designation of fellow during the ACOFP's Annual Conclave of Fellows Awards Ceremony, which was held March 15 at the organization's 45th Annual Convention and Exhibition in Denver, Colorado. In May, Dr. Cimerberg appeared on South Florida's WSVN 7 newscast to discuss lasers and cosmetic laser treatment.

Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88) joined the staff of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) in June in the role of associate vice president for medical education. He also published a book called *Genomic Medicine and the Generalist Physician: Predicting a Flood When it Has Just Started to Rain and Erondy-Cymet Syndrome: Description of a Chromosomal Abnormality in Gene 21*.

Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('87) was recently promoted from vice chief to chief of the Department of Family Practice at Memorial Hospital West in Pembroke Pines, Florida.

Mayrene Hernandez, D.O. ('01) and Iida Isaza, D.O. ('01) are hosting a live radio program called *Cuidando Su Salud with Dr. Hernandez and Dr. Isaza* every other Saturday on Radio Mambi WAQI 710 AM that educates the Hispanic population about current regimes and guidelines for chronic illness.

Brad Homan, D.O. ('99) has been appointed as chief of surgery at Florida Hospital Celebration Health, where he also served as medical director of sports medicine for several years. In addition, Dr. Homan is the team physician for the Orlando Sharks professional indoor soccer team and works with the National Basketball Association (NBA) every year to assist at the NBA pre-draft camp.

Ben Lawner, D.O. ('05) recently completed his emergency medicine residency at the University of Maryland Medical System in Baltimore and is now beginning a chief residency and faculty development fellowship with the Department of Emergency Medicine. In addition, he was selected by the Emergency Medicine Residents Association to receive the Jean Hollister EMS Award.

Joshua D. Lenchus, D.O., R.Ph., FACP ('00), assistant professor of clinical medicine in the Department of Medicine at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, was listed as one of nine "Emerging Leaders in Florida Medicine" in the April 2008 edition of the Florida Medical Association's *Florida Medical Magazine*. Dr. Lenchus was the only osteopathic physician and the only internist/hospitalist listed.

Daron Olmsted, D.O. ('07) had his letter to the editor entitled "Enfranchising D.O.s" published in the May 2008 issue of *THE DO* magazine. Dr. Olmsted's opinion piece was a rebuttal to the February 2008 article entitled "Disenfranchised D.O.s: A Myth in the AOA."

Ramsey Pevsner, D.O., Ph.D. ('03), who completed her residency training at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital, is now practicing in Plantation, Florida, with Drs. Nathaniel Keller and Gary Fishman. She recently presented a paper entitled "Predictors of PTSD Completers Versus Non-Completers" at the American Psychiatric Association Convention.

Elise Zahn, D.O. ('96) was named medical director of the West Palm Beach Firefighters' Pension Fund in November 2007. She also served as the USAR FLT-5 (Urban Search and Rescue) team physician who was training the squad in Memphis, Tennessee, in February 2008 when tornados hit the area. As a result, several of her team members were deployed to aid in rescue efforts.

NSU-COM Alumni Share Experiences with Students at Inaugural Alumni Panel Event



The inaugural panelists are (top row from left) William Stager, D.O. ('89), Marcos Rejtman, D.O. ('94), Robert Hasty, D.O. ('01), and Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of alumni affairs. Pictured (bottom from left) are OMS-I Erin Speck, Mayrene Hernandez, D.O. ('01), Tracy Favreau, D.O. ('01), OMS-I Candace White, and OMS-II Jessica Cuello. Also in attendance but not pictured were Kenneth Johnson, D.O. ('91), Daniel Carney, D.O. ('95), and Tatiana Lee-Chee, D.O. ('96).

On April 17, members of the Alumni Association partnered with the class of 2011 to conduct the college's inaugural Alumni Panel of D.O. Physicians that centered on the theme Sharing Experiences Across Generations: Looking Toward the Future and took place in the Chancellor's Dining Room of the Terry Building.

This beneficial project began when OMS-I Candace White, who serves as president of the class of 2011, approached Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs, about enhancing relationships between alumni and the current medical student population. Following a productive brainstorming session, the duo decided to recruit alumni to speak to current medical students about their diverse medical careers, with the ultimate goal of fostering an ongoing rapport between NSU-COM students and alumni.

The event proved to be a major success as a large and enthusiastic student audience listened intently as nine local NSU-COM alumni discussed their fields of expertise, which included OB-GYN, rehabilitation medicine, hospice care, OMM, internal medicine, family medicine, dermatology,

and ophthalmology. The participating alumni also provided information on what led them into their specific fields of study, shared details about their personal lives, discussed their clinical rotation, board exam, and residency experiences, and talked about the importance of being involved in legislative issues. Since the event was such an overwhelming success, the Office of Alumni Affairs has decided to make it an annual occurrence.

"It's great to know we have alumni who truly care enough to take time out of their busy schedules to share their life experiences," White explained. "Many students have said this was an event they enjoyed and felt was beneficial. They feel like they have a little more guidance and direction with figuring out what career path they should take. It's moments like these that help to define our osteopathic medical student experience. I am just excited I could be a part of it."

Fun the Focus at Senior Week Golf Tournament



Friendly competition was the prime objective at the Fourth Annual Senior Week Golf Tournament, which was held on May 19 at Grande Oaks Golf Club in Davie. Forty-four golfers participated in the shotgun scramble tournament that included NSU-COM students, faculty members, alumni, and supporters. Prizes were awarded for the first-, second-, and third-place teams, longest drive, and closet to the pin.

The first-place team consisting of OMS-I Lee James, Gordon Opitz, Jimmy Opitz, and Ryan Bower shot a team score of 56. The team comprising OMS-IV Zach Wood, Ralph Wood, D.O., Kenneth Johnson, D.O., and future D.O. Matthew Johnson took second place with a team score of 59. Finishing in third place with a score of 60 were fourth-year students Steven Keehn, Brian Ireland, and William McCoy, along with McCoy's father. OMS-I Rob Schneider won the longest drive, while

the closet-to-the-pin champion was OMS-I Ryan Cantville. Following the tournament, the participants returned to the HPD Private Dining Room for a barbeque and the distribution of awards and prizes.

NSU-COM would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their support in making the event such a success: Bruce Silverman from Herff Jones, El Chico Restaurant, Hooters, Smokey Bones, Olive Garden, Fountains Jewelers, Dr. Kenneth Johnson, Candace White, Leslie Jones, Dr. Bart Whitehead, and Rochelle Reynolds. "Everyone had a great time, and we're already looking forward to next year's event," said Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs. "We hope to see some new faces as well as those that will be back to defend their title."

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fundraising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors; however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact Lynne Cawley in the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029 to rectify the matter. For example, the college has received a number of donation cards with credit-card pledges where no name is listed. The Office of Alumni Affairs cannot process the credit-card donation without a name indicated, so if you have not received a letter of thanks from NSU-COM but know you have made a credit-card contribution, please contact Ms. Cawley at the aforementioned phone number.

2008 Donors

Clock Tower Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)

Dr. John and Ellen Geake ('93)
(Leave a Legacy, Buy a Bench Program)

*Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)
(Dr. David B. Levine Endowed Scholarship Fund)

Florida Osteopathic Medical Assoc.
(Dr. David B. Levine Endowed Scholarship Fund)

Florida Society ACOFP
(Dr. David B. Levine Endowed Scholarship Fund)

*Ms. Geraldine Terry

Dr. Stanley Zimmelman ('91)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Robert Crook ('88)
(Leave a Legacy, Buy a Bench Program)

*Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)

Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

Dr. Walter J. Kay

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

*Dr. Douglas Bushell ('98)

*Dr. Thomas Green ('98)

Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)

*Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)

Dr. Anthony Ottaviani

Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)

*Dr. and Mrs. Burt Routman
(Dr. David B. Levine Endowed Scholarship Fund)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Mary and Sonny Allegro
(in memory of Anna Lalomio)
(in memory of Morton Morris, D.O., J.D.)
(in memory of Peter Batcho)

Dr. R. Patrick Bell

Dr. Octavia M. Cannon

Ms. Ann Cawley
(in honor of Lynne Cawley)

Dr. Kenneth Chan ('92)

*Dr. Stan Cohen

Dr. Bruce David ('88)

*Dr. Jon and Janee Dodds

*Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)

*Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)

Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)

*Dr. Anthony Marchese ('01)

Dr. Merideth Norris ('00)
(in honor of Greg James, D.O.)

Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)
(in memory of Bradley Silverman, D.O.)

*Dr. Ramsey B. Pevsner ('03)

*Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)

*Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg ('90)

*Drs. Ronald Tolchin ('89)/
Susan Yahia ('91)

*Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)

*Dr. Margaret Wilkinson

Friends/Young Alumni (up to \$99)

*Dr. Tye E. Barber ('06)

*Mr. Richard Brempong

*Ms. Adizza Bucary

*Ms. Delia Celestine

*Dr. Joanna L. Greenblatt-Drowos ('04)

Ms. Frances M. Krohn
(Dr. David B. Levine Endowed Scholarship Fund)

Dr. Archie H. McClean ('88)
(Dr. David B. Levine Endowed Scholarship Fund)

*Dr. Arnold Melnick

*Dr. Donald Miller ('00)

*Dr. Laila Mozdab ('92)

*Dr. Joseph Patterson

*Dr. Alina Perez

*Ms. Carmen Robledo

*Dr. Josephine Shallo-Hoffman

*Dr. Robert Uchin

** in honor of 2008 Living Tribute Award
recipient Dr. Cyril Blavo*

Cumulative List (1999-2008)

Founder's Circle (\$25,000+)

David Kimmel Foundation/Mr.
and Mrs. Stephen Mason/Harry
Wendroff, CPA

Dr. George Linsey

Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)

Heritage Circle

Represents donors that have made a
significant deferred gift via life insurance
policies, insurances, or trusts.

Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove ('90)
(Gift: \$500,000 life insurance policy)

Dr. Albert Whitehead
(Gift: \$250,000 life insurance policy)

Chancellor's Council (\$5,000+)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

Dean's Council (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)

Drs. Kenneth ('91)/Michelle Johnson

Dr. Stanley Zimmelman ('91)

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

Clock Tower Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)
Dr. Charles Chase ('89)
Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)
Dr. Robert Crook ('88)
Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
Florida Society ACOFP
Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)
Dr. Leslie Greco ('87)
Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)
Dr. John N. Harker ('89)
Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr. ('92)
Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)
Dr. Gregory James ('88)
Dr. Carlos Levy ('87)
Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)
Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)
Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)
Dr. Joel Rush ('85)
Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Swanson ('96)
Ms. Geraldine Terry
Dr. Stacy Williams ('95)
Dr. John Windsor ('89)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. David Adler ('92)
Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)
Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)
Dr. Michael Baron ('88)
Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)
Dr. James Beretta ('88)
Dr. Roger Boyington ('94)
Broward County Osteopathic
Medical Association
Dr. Colene Stout Calo ('95)
Dr. Steven Cimerberg ('87)
Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)
Dr. Bruce David ('88)
Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)
Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)
Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)
Dr. Brad Glick ('89)
Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)
Dr. John Gordon ('92)
Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)
Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)
Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)
Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)
Dr. James T. Howell
Dr. Sharon Johnston ('93)
Dr. Walter J. Kay

Dr. Robert Klein ('91)
Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)
Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin
Dr. Julia O'Brien ('89)
Dr. Tricia Percy ('95)
Dr. Earle Pescatore ('89)
Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)
Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)
Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)
Dr. Michael Ross ('88)
Dr. Patrick Sayavong ('92)
Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)
Ms. Lorraine Snyder
Dr. Theodore Spevack ('85)/
Dr. Robyn Zelnick ('87)
Dr. Sonia Talarico ('03)
Drs. Ronald Tolchin ('89)/
Susan Yahia ('91)
Dr. James ('88) and Sherry Turner
Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)
Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)
Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Mary and Sonny Allegro
Dr. Bridget Bellinger ('86)
Dr. Shaughn Bennett ('86)
Dr. Camille Z. Bentley ('92)
Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo
Dr. Edgar Bolton
Dr. Janet Bradshaw ('92)
Dr. Kenneth Bresky ('92)
Dr. Douglas Bushell ('98)
Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)
Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)
Dr. Kenneth Chan ('92)
Dr. Joan Crawford ('86)
Dr. Gaston Dana ('92)
Dr. Alan David ('92)
Dr. John DeCosmo ('87)
Dr. Stephen Dyke ('91)
Dr. Lee L. Gibson ('85)
Dr. Diana Graves ('86)
Dr. A. Alvin Greber
Dr. Thomas Green ('98)
Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)
Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)
Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)
Dr. Steven L. Hazelcorn ('98)
Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)
Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)
Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)
Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)
Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)
Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)

Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)
Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)
Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Neer
Dr. Merideth Norris ('00)
NSU-COM Class of 1994
Dr. Nelson Onaro ('92)
Dr. William E. Osborn, III ('96)
Dr. Anthony Ottaviani
Dr. Edward Packer
Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)
Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)
Dr. Ramsey B. Pevsner ('03)
Mr. John Potomski
Dr. David Rabaja ('94)
Dr. George Ramie ('96)
Dr. David Ratcliffe ('92)
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Dr. Steven Sager ('90)
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Ms. Louise Todaro
Dr. Peter A. Tomasello ('91)
Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)
Dr. Ira Weiner
Dr. Margaret Wilkinson
Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Kelly Adams ('88)
Dr. Comfort Omobola Adewumi ('00)
Dr. Barnet Alpert
Dr. Richard Appleby ('93)
Dr. Thomas Anderson ('98)
Dr. Barbara Arcos ('94)
Dr. Leslie Arroyo-Barrows ('86)
Dr. Shoaib M. Ayubi
Dr. Joseph F. Barakeh ('97)
Dr. Daniel Barkus
Dr. Douglas Baska ('86)
Dr. Paul Bates ('86)
Dr. R. Patrick Bell
Dr. Peggy Benzing ('87)
Dr. Deidra Bergmann ('85)
Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00)
Dr. Behnam Birgani ('93)
Dr. Melissa Broadman ('98)
Dr. Juanita Brown ('91)
Dr. George Campbell ('99)
Dr. Maureen Campbell ('89)
Dr. Octavia M. Cannon
Dr. James Caschette

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

Dr. Maria Catalano ('89)
 Ms. Ann Cawley
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 Dr. David Cisko ('88)
 Dr. Jules Cohen
 Dr. Stan Cohen
 Dr. Robert Darrel Collins ('93)
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 Dr. Robert D'Amico ('87)
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 Dr. Christopher Davis ('89)
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 Dr. Malcolm R. Freedman ('94)
 Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek ('90)
 Dr. Gary Gary
 Dr. Brent Gordon ('88)
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 Dr. Jimmy Hankins ('88)
 Dr. Edward Hartwig
 Dr. William Hayes ('89)
 Dr. David Heller ('85)
 Dr. David C. Hellman ('88)
 Dr. Richard Herman ('89)
 Dr. Marc Herschelman ('91)
 Dr. Leslie Herzog ('87)
 Dr. William Holt ('86)
 Dr. Myron Howell
 Dr. Nabil Itani ('00)
 Dr. Lawrence Jacobson
 Dr. Thelma Jamison
 Dr. Andrew Kahn ('91)
 Drs. Kurt Kantzler ('93) and Ms. Yoyen Lau ('93)
 Ms. Donna Kaplan
 Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)
 Dr. Claude Kassim ('97)
 Dr. Robin Kesselman ('85)
 Dr. Youssef Khodor ('95)
 Dr. Frank Kiick ('88)
 Dr. Mi Kim ('90)
 Dr. Laura Kimbro ('90)
 Dr. Mark Khirsandi ('99)
 Dr. Stephen Krathen
 Dr. Mark A. Kucker ('89)
 Dr. Michael Landman ('88)
 Dr. Kim Lark ('94)

Dr. Tracie Leonhardt ('92)
 Dr. Andrew Lepoff ('86)
 Dr. Soling Li ('00)
 Dr. James Liang ('99)
 Dr. Lily Limsuvanrot ('02)
 Dr. Deborah Longwill-Fox ('88)
 Dr. Albert Lopez ('92)
 Dr. Leonardo Lopez ('99)
 Dr. Jason Lue ('99)
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 Dr. Frances Martinez-Mally ('93)
 Dr. Cindy Marika ('87)
 Dr. Arnold Melnick
 Dr. Michelle Mendez ('96)
 Dr. Patricia J. Moore ('89)
 Dr. Joseph Morelos ('97)
 Dr. Brian C. Moraes ('92)
 Dr. Laila Mozdab ('92)
 Dr. Jeffrey Newfield ('91)
 Dr. Iran Niroomand-Rad ('89)
 Dr. Robert Nisenbaum ('90)
 Dr. Nelson Olaguibel ('87)
 Dr. Aeyal Oren ('99)
 Mr. Alexander Packman
 Dr. Greta Amy Peck ('86)
 Dr. Brent Penhall ('07)
 Dr. Jorge Perez ('90)
 Dr. Antonio Ramirez ('90)
 Dr. Ravinder Randhawa ('92)
 Dr. Michael Rasansky ('06)
 Dr. Marcos Rejtman ('94)
 Dr. Jeffrey Rich ('92)
 Dr. Saul Rigau ('89)
 Dr. Mark Ritch ('88)
 Dr. Michael Rohan ('01)
 Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg ('90)
 Dr. E. Larry Roycraft ('93)
 Dr. Allan Rubin
 Dr. Robert Ruffolo ('88)
 Dr. David Saltzman
 Dr. Stuart A. Sandler ('86)

Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)
 Dr. Melvin Sarnow
 Dr. Theodore Schock ('87)
 Dr. Andrew Schwartz ('03)
 Dr. Sandra Schwemmer
 Dr. Robert Sculthorpe
 Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90)
 Dr. Josephine Shallo-Hoffman
 Dr. John Yozen Shih ('91)
 Dr. John Shover
 Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Silvagni
 Mr. Stanley Silverman
 Dr. Rita Sivils ('92)
 Dr. Scott W. Smith ('94)
 Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Snyder
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 Dr. John H. Stanton ('90)
 Dr. Margaret Starr
 Dr. Mark Stich ('87)
 Dr. Colene Stout
 Dr. James Sullivan ('87)
 Dr. Joseph W. Sullivan ('88)
 Dr. Richard J. Susi
 Dr. James H. Taylor
 Dr. Donald Teplitz ('85)
 Dr. Richard Thacker ('92)
 Dr. David Thomas
 Dr. Stephen A. Tramill ('88)
 Dr. Dafna Trites ('94)
 Dr. Claudine Ward ('02)
 Dr. Douglas P. Webster
 Dr. Richard Weisberg ('93)
 Dr. Michael Weiss ('86)
 Dr. Sharon White-Findley ('86)
 Dr. John E. Williams ('96)
 Dr. Michael Williams ('00)
 Dr. Paul Winner
 Dr. Scott Yagger ('89)
 Dr. Stephen Yandel ('89)
 Dr. Adrian M. Zachary ('98)
 Dr. Christopher Zub ('99)

Magic Moments at the Mai-Kai

The Office of Alumni Affairs outdid itself by sponsoring a Senior Week event at the Mai-Kai restaurant in Fort Lauderdale that served as a festively fun way for the class of 2008 graduates to celebrate the completion of their NSU-COM education. Following cocktails and dinner, a show was staged consisting of Polynesian dancers who sang, danced, and twirled fire batons. However, the evening's highlight was the audience participation segment, which culminated when Dr. Silvagni, his wife Dianna, Dr. Bart Whitehead, and graduating senior Elizabeth Dillard were chosen to participate on stage with the dancers. "It was a sight to see and fun to watch," said Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs. "Everyone had a great time, and we thank the Alumni Association for its sponsorship of this event."

2008-09 Calendar of Events

July 30 - August 3, 2008

FSACOFP Annual Convention – Orlando, Florida

August 10, 2008

White Coat Ceremony – NSU-COM Campus – Davie, Florida

August 22-24, 2008

CEME Weekend Retreat – Lago Mar Resort and Club – Fort Lauderdale, Florida

September 11-13, 2008

FOMA Mid-Year Seminar – Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay – Tampa Bay, Florida

October 26-November 1, 2008

AOA 113th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar – Las Vegas, Nevada

November 8, 2008

CE Medicolegal Conference – NSU-COM Campus – Davie, Florida

January 31, 2009

A National Debate on Childhood Immunizations and Autism Spectrum Disorder
NSU-COM Campus – Davie, Florida

February 5-8, 2009

Academic Corrections Health Care Conference – (Location TBA)

February 6-8, 2009

13th Annual Alumni Reunion and CME Program – Plantation/Davie, Florida



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